

F 194

.B98

1990



Washington

BEHIND THE MONUMENTS

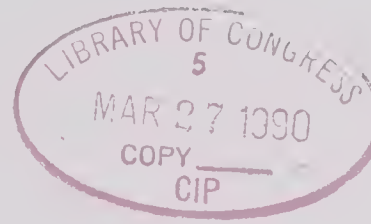
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

175.45
105



By
Bruce I. Bustard

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.



PUBLISHED FOR THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES TRUST FUND BOARD
1990

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Bustard, Bruce I., 1954–

Washington-behind the monuments / by Bruce I. Bustard.

Issued in conjunction with an exhibition held at the National
Archives in 1990.

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Washington (D.C.) — History — Exhibitions. I. United States.
National Archives and Records Administration. II. Title.

F194.B98 1990 90-5420

ISBN 0-911333-81-9

Designed by Serene Feldman Werblood, National Archives
Title design by Janice Hargett, National Archives

CONTENTS

Preface *v*

Part I: The Federal City

Foundations 3

Agents of Change 7

The Capital Besieged 14

Alterations 24

What Might Have Been 33

Part II: Washington as Home

Beginnings 45

Government and Jobs 50

Transportation 63

Charity, Education, and Order 68

A City of Neighborhoods 78

Epilogue: Nation's Capital and Hometown 92

For Further Reading 102

PREFACE

The City of Washington, District of Columbia, can be thought of as two distinctly different cities. The Federal City, with its monuments, statues, parks, and public buildings, is familiar to most Americans. But our nation's capital has also been hometown to hundreds of thousands of people. Washington is both monumental and ordinary, and the tension between these two characteristics defines the city and provides the foundation for its unique history.

In the 200 years since its founding, Washington's monumental core has changed dramatically as it reflected both the changing styles of architecture and urban planning and reacted to the major and minor events of American history. But as the Federal City grew, so too did the other city, where Washingtonians created the institutions of community — schools, government, transportation networks, a police force, charitable institutions, and distinct neighborhoods.

This publication, produced as part of the National Archives' celebration of the founding of Washington, DC, illustrates the history of both Washingtons — the Federal City and the hometown — through photographs and reproductions of documents, artifacts, and maps.

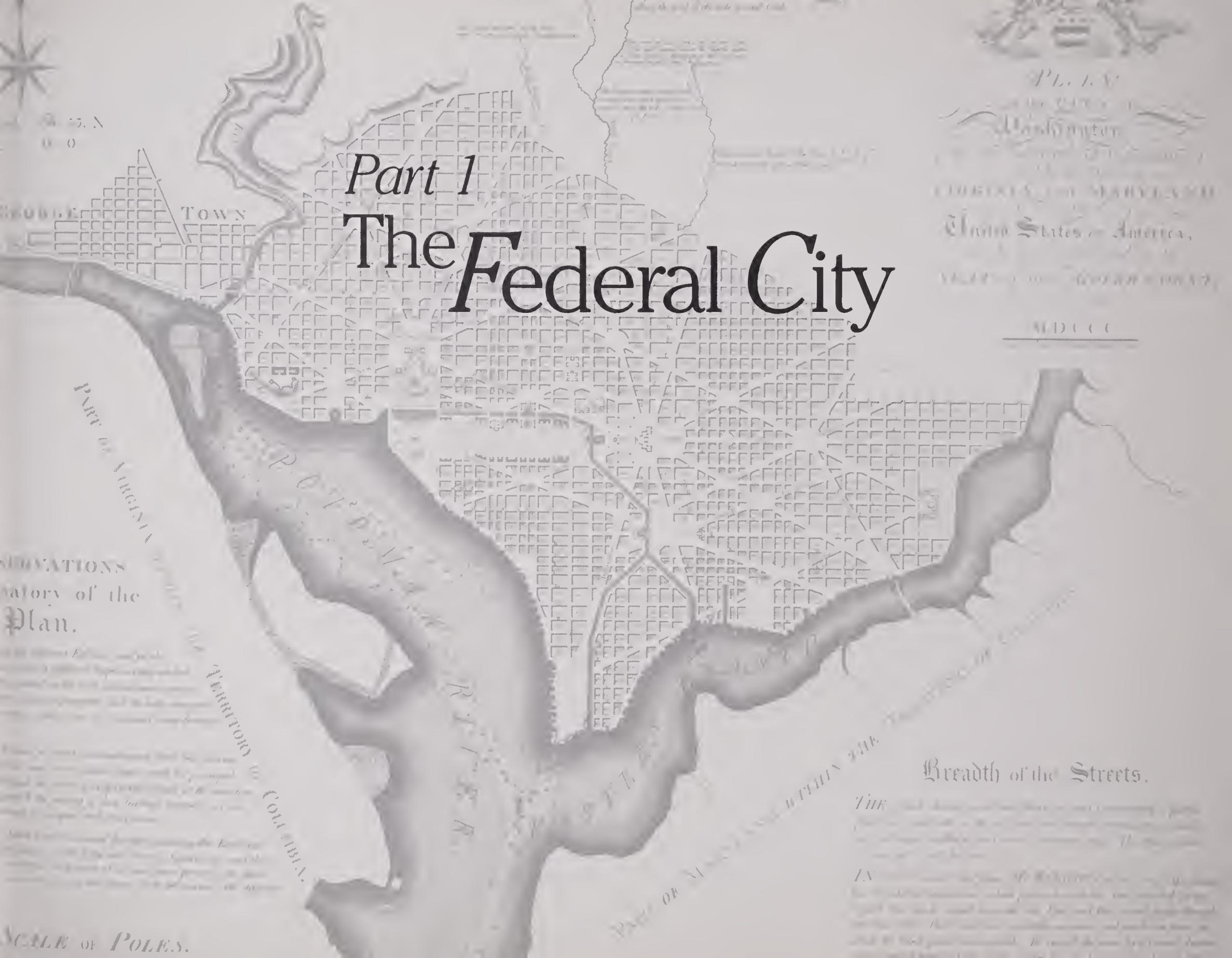
The book is based on the 1990 National Archives exhibit "Washington: Behind the Monuments." Items that appear here but not in the exhibit are identified with an asterisk and an appropriate citation. All items illustrated, unless otherwise noted, are from the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration and are identified by their Record Group (RG) number and appropriate citation.

The Office of Public Programs, National Archives and Records Administration, prepared both the exhibit and this publication. This book was compiled and written by Bruce I. Bustard of the Exhibits Branch, Exhibits and Educational Programs Division, and designed by Serene Feldman Werblood of the Development and Production Branch, Publications Division. Special appreciation is extended to National Archives staff members Lisa Auel, Stacey Bredhoff, Dale Connelly, John A. Dwyer III, Henry J. Gwiazda II, Harlan Hambright, Elizabeth L. Hill, Elizabeth K. Lockwood, Gerald Luchansky, Claudia J. Nicholson, Kitty Nicholson, Nancy J. Olds, Fred Pernell, Mary C. Ryan, Rita Sexton, Emily W. Soapes, Richard B. Smith, Richard H. Smith, Bobbye West, and James D. Zeender.

Don W. Wilson
Archivist of the United States

*“That a district of territory not exceeding ten miles square,
to be located as hereafter directed on the River Potomack,
at some place between the mouths of the Eastern branch
and Connogohegue be, and the same is hereby accepted,
for the permanent seat of the government of the United
States . . .”*

Residence Act
Approved July 16, 1790



Part 1 The Federal City

NOVATIONS
atory of the
Plan.

SCALE OF POLES.

Breadth of the Streets.

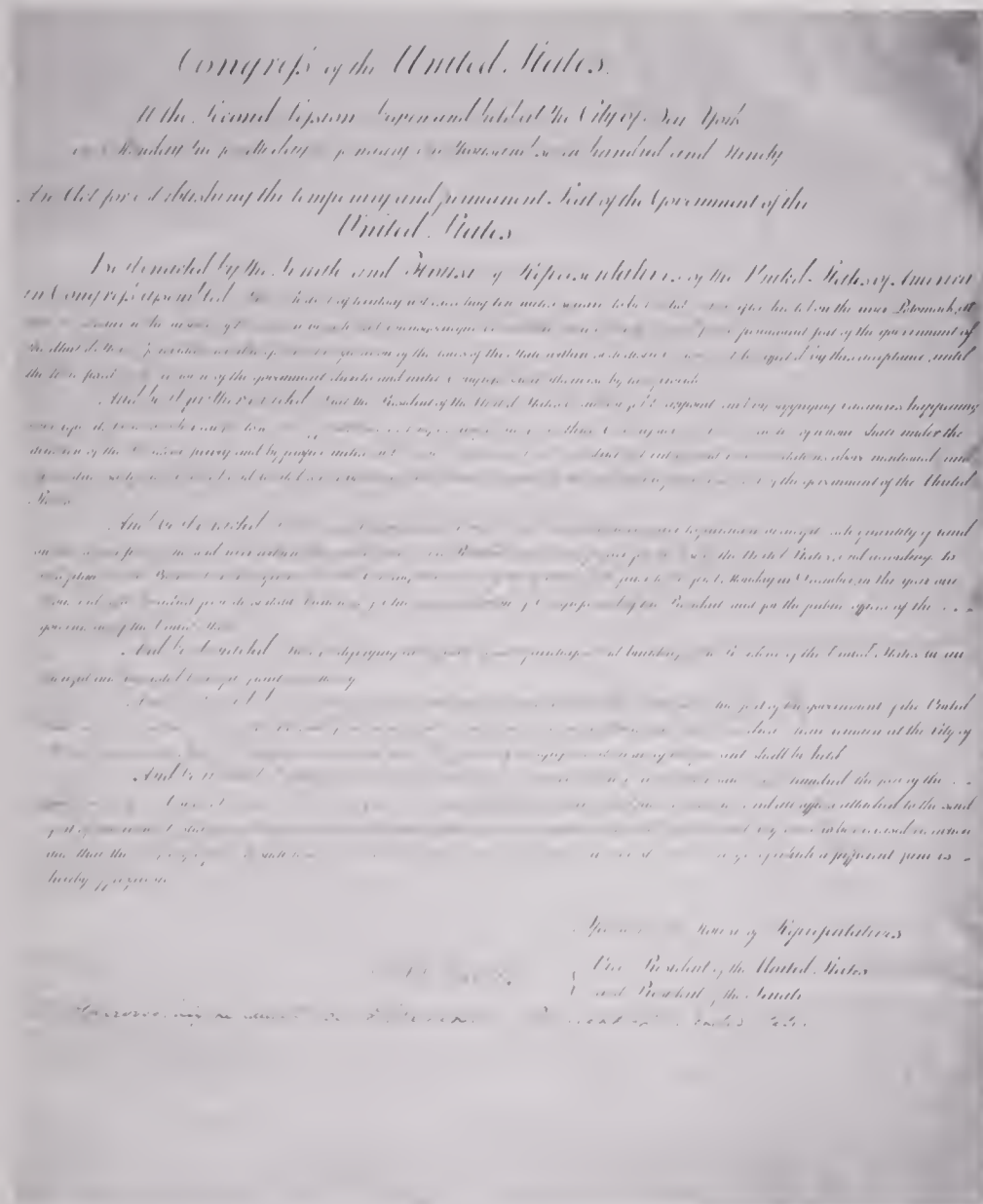


Foundations. When the new federal government was formed under the Constitution in New York in 1789, it was apparent the time had come for the Congress of the United States to establish a place where the government could sit — a place of its own. For years Congress had wandered nomadically, rarely staying at one site for long. The Residence Act of July 16, 1790, was the decisive step that Congress took to establish a permanent seat for the government of the United States.

Selecting the site for this “Federal City” was difficult — politics and regional sentiments led to the proposal of many existing towns along the Hudson, Susquehanna, and Potomac Rivers. At last, in a compromise engineered by Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, the Potomac River location was agreed upon, although the specific site was left to President George Washington to choose. The President was deeply involved in the selection and

planning of the city. He visited the area in the fall of 1790, and though he went through the motions of considering several existing towns along the Potomac, he never seriously considered any site except the area near Georgetown. After selecting land at the junction of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, Washington negotiated its sale, adjusted the new city’s boundaries, and chose Pierre Charles L’Enfant, a Revolutionary War comrade, to plan the capital.

The planned nature of America’s “seat of empire” is one of Washington, DC’s most striking characteristics. Few cities of the time were deliberately planned, and L’Enfant’s vision was truly revolutionary. It adroitly exploited the site’s topography, created separate areas for the executive and legislative functions, and tried to integrate these districts into the commercial and neighborhood life of the city. The French-born planner also foresaw the capital’s need for large public spaces, monumental structures, and broad



The Residence Act of July 16, 1790. Competition among cities and geographic sections to become the nation's capital was fierce. Eventually, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison arranged a compromise whereby southern congressmen would support a bill seen as crucial to New Englanders in return for northern support of a capital "on the Potomack." The Residence Act left the exact location of the capital up to President Washington and provided 10 years for the transfer of the government to its new seat.

Record Group (RG) 11, General Records of the United States Government

ceremonial avenues, yet he did not neglect to design a city that allowed for future residential growth.

L'Enfant was the first of many Washington city planners. Although L'Enfant was later dismissed by President Washington and the city's commissioners because of his prickly temperament, disputes with the commissioners, and delays in producing a city plan, his vision lived on. L'Enfant's immediate successor, the surveyor Andrew Ellicott, eliminated or straightened a few of the French-man's avenues, but Ellicott's 1792 city plan kept most of L'Enfant's other ideas.



"Washington," by George Isham Parkyn, ca. 1800. The striking setting for the Federal City drew many comments. One English visitor described it as "surrounded by a complete amphitheater of hills which is [at] all times beautiful."

Courtesy of the Library of Congress



1. 58:55, N.
0: 0.

GEORGETOWN

PART OF VIRG

"Plan of the City of Washington in the Territory of Columbia . . ." (1880 copy of a 1792 map by Andrew Ellicott). The Federal City was first planned by Pierre Charles L'Enfant, who was aided by surveyors Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker. L'Enfant soon quarreled with the city commissioners, and President Washington dismissed him. The commissioners then asked Ellicott to draw up the city plan L'Enfant had promised but never produced. Ellicott's plan is similar to L'Enfant's, except that Ellicott eliminated a few diagonal avenues and straightened some others.

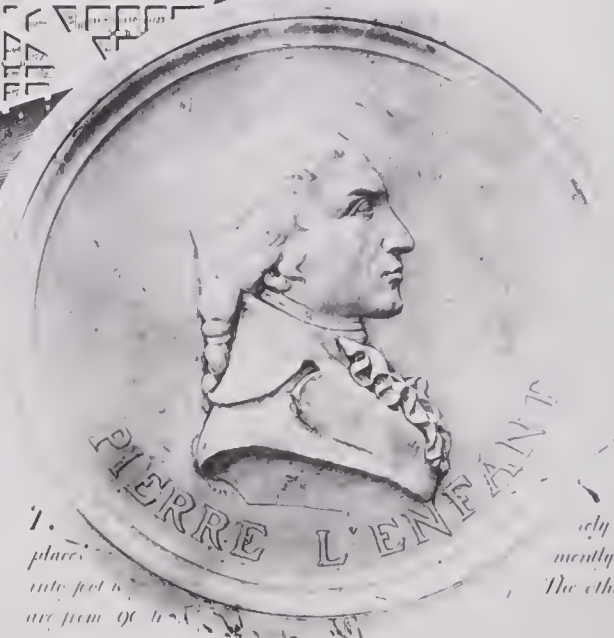
RG 23, Records of the Coast and Geodetic Survey (Published Chart 3035)

Inset: **Pierre Charles L'Enfant** (1754-1825)

RG 66, Records of the Commission of Fine Arts (66-HW-17)

SCALE OF POLES.

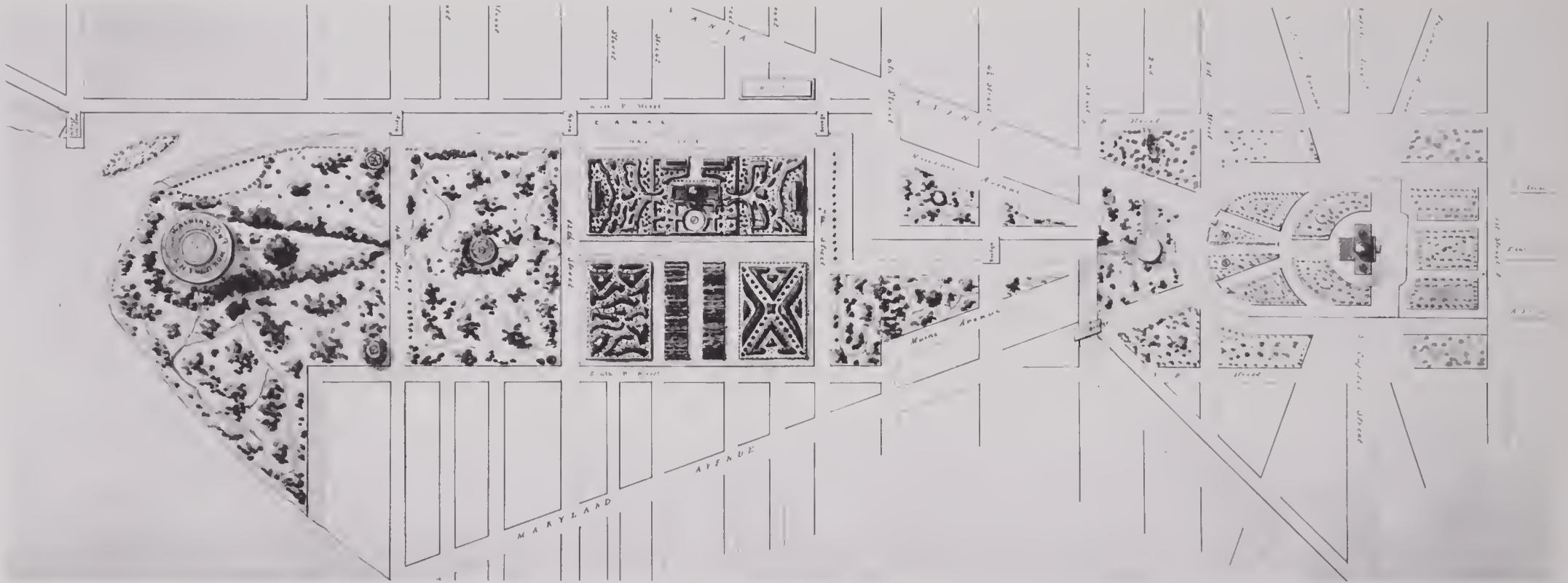
PL. I. V.
of the CITY of
Washington
(in the Territory of Columbia,
ceded by the States of
VIRGINIA and MARYLAND
to the
United States of America,
and by them established as the
SEAT of their GOVERNMENT.
1791.
MDCCC.



1. places
into feet
are from 96 to 100

ely to public
mently divided
The other Streets

IN order to execute this plan, Mr. ELICOTT drew a true Meridional line by celestial observation, which passes through the area intended for the Capitol, this line he crossed by another due East and West, which passes through the same area. These lines were accurately measured, and made the basis on which the whole plan was executed. He run all the lines by a Transit Instru-



Agents of Change. Over the next 200 years L'Enfant's vision has been amended, ignored, and challenged by a host of architects, engineers, bureaucrats, and politicians. The changes suggested for the Mall reflect the modifications made to the overall city plan. L'Enfant originally saw it as a tree-lined "Grand Avenue" modeled after European counterparts such as Versailles and American precedents such as Williamsburg, Virginia. In the mid-19th century, architect Robert Mills saw the Mall as a series of formal and informal gardens leading to his monument to George Washington. A few years later, landscape architect Andrew Downing envisioned it as a romantic "pleasure garden" with meandering paths, small bridges, and "a public museum of living trees and shrubs."

Robert Mills, Plan of the Mall, February 16, 1841. During the 19th century many architects and planners tried to envision how the Mall should look. Robert Mills's plan combined both formal and informal gardens. At the left is Mills's Washington Monument. A canal runs along the Mall and cuts across it in front of the Capitol. Mills's plan was not implemented.

RG 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers (CONS 90-1)

Neither the Mills plan nor the Downing plan was adopted, but by 1900 Downing's ideas had been partially implemented, and the Mall was covered with trees and winding walks. A railroad station that crossed the Mall just below the Capitol further disturbed L'Enfant's design. Another plan proposed that part of the Mall become a paved street connecting the Capitol and the Washington Monument grounds. The changing face of the Mall only reinforced



“View of Washington City and Georgetown, 1849.” This lithograph was designed for tourists as a souvenir.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

what some saw as a lack of architectural unity in the city as a whole. They hoped for improvements on Pennsylvania Avenue, more parks, and greater unity in the city's eclectic mix of architectural styles.

In 1901 the Senate's Committee on the District of Columbia appointed a commission that would eventually succeed in changing the Mall and the face of Washington, DC, to make them in harmony with L'Enfant's original vision. The McMillan Commission (named after its sponsor, Senator James McMillan) was charged with drawing up "plans for the development and improvement of the entire park system of the District of Columbia." But its members, architects Daniel Burnham and Charles McKim, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens had more in mind. They were determined to restore control over planning in the city; provide for growth; and carry out L'Enfant's plan as they understood it, while keeping in mind the realities of modern urban life.

What the commission proposed was much broader than their initial charge. Though it took years for many of the commission's ideas to become reality, the Mall and the city still reflect its influence. The McMillan Commission's comprehensive plan included building a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, constructing a Memorial Bridge across the Potomac, removing the trees and train station from the Mall, and building a new Union Station. The commission also created the District's first plan for the city's parks and suggested placement of new public buildings.



Aerial View of the Mall and U.S. Capitol Building, ca. 1900. By 1900 the Mall was covered with trees, and a train station crossed it at the foot of Capitol Hill. The McMillan Commission proposed removing the trees, razing the station, and reclaiming the Mall as a type of "ceremonial avenue."

**RG 66, Records of the Commission of Fine Arts (66-G-23A-6)*



Daniel Burnham (1846–1912)

Courtesy of the American Institute of Architects Archives



Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (1870–1957)

Courtesy of the Commission of Fine Arts



Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848–1907)

Etching by Anders Zorn

Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution



Charles Follen McKim (1847–1909)

Courtesy of the American Institute of Architects Archives

The composition of the McMillan Commission drew upon a wide variety of professional expertise. Daniel Burnham was a noted architect and city planner, Augustus Saint-Gaudens a well-known sculptor, Frederick Law Olmsted an accomplished landscape architect, and Charles Follen McKim a principal partner in the New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White.



Bird's-eye view of the Mall from Washington Monument to Capitol, 1901. The commission wanted to build an extensive "platform" surrounded by terraced gardens from which the Washington Monument would rise. It considered this treatment to be the "gem of the Mall system." The plan was never carried out, due largely to the sandy soil that was not stable enough to support the proposed construction.

RG 66, Records of the Commission of Fine Arts, General Subject File

WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENT STUDIES - BY THE NATIONAL



Plan for the Mall, 1928. The McMillan Commission put forward a comprehensive plan for the Mall's development. This map gives some idea of their extensive plan and its progress to 1928.

RG 328, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission
(100 (05 20) 2509)

APITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



“We heard the tread of British army [feet], and as soon as we got sight of the British army raising that [Capitol] hill they look[ed] like flames of fire, all red coats and the stocks of their guns painted with red vermillion and the iron work shined like a Spanish dollar . . .”

—excerpt from the diary of Michael Shiner, a free black man who worked as a mechanic at the Navy Yard and witnessed the capture of Washington, DC.

The Capital Besieged. The succession of city planners from L'Enfant through the McMillan Commission left its mark on the city, but many enduring changes occurred as the result of uncontrollable forces. National and world events, accident, and serendipity altered the face of Washington, DC, forever. In the 19th century, two conflicts, the War of 1812 and the Civil War, changed the city dramatically. On August 24, 1814, British troops captured and burned Washington. A violent thunderstorm put out many of the fires, but the next day a tornado further damaged the city. When Congress returned, it estimated the damage at \$2.7 million and seriously considered moving to a more defensible location. While pledges of loans from Washington banks prevented this move, many

of Washington's original buildings were lost, and the Capitol and President's House had to be rebuilt.

The Civil War transformed the city from a small southern town with a population of 61,000 in 1860 to a bustling metropolis of nearly 200,000 living under the threat of siege. Government buildings were converted to military uses and housed troops or served as hospitals. Also, by the end of the war, the District's black population had swelled by the addition of an estimated 40,000 persons, mainly runaway slaves known as “contrabands.” The city was attractive to fugitive slaves because of its proximity to the Confederacy and because its already large free black population made it a relatively safe haven.



"Capture of the City of Washington." Engraving by Paul de Rapin-Thoyras. When British troops captured Washington on August 24, 1814, they found the government had fled, leaving the public buildings empty. They burned the War and Treasury buildings, the Navy Yard, and the Arsenal, as well as the President's House and the Capitol. Only Blodgett's Hotel, which housed the Post Office and the Patent Office, was spared the flames.

RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Office (111-SC:96969)

"President Madison's Medicine Chest." First Lady Dolley Madison fled the city shortly before the British captured it. When the invading troops arrived they found the table set for dinner. After helping themselves to some of the Madison's belongings, they burned the house. Years later, a descendant of the British soldier who stole this chest returned it to the White House as a gesture of good will to the American people.

Courtesy of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, National Archives and Records Administration



1575 feet of Ceiling at 15 c. 236.25
 Amount of North Portico \$ 2669.35

Of the Wall and Iron Railing North
 of the President's House
 1500 feet taking down walls & filling (Spring 2188) \$1500.00
 1500 feet run of Iron Railing 600. 9000.00
 3000 holes cutting & leading 22. 690.00
 2 Piers and 2 Iron Gates 810.00
 \$ 12000.00

Recapitulation
 President's Houses 5392.10
 Stairs not included in former estimate 3645.00
 Drawing Room 6177.35
 Office East & West 9867.30
 Porticos 50322.53
 Wall North of President's House . . . 12000.00
 Half of 17th Co on and for contingencies 3365.16
 Total Amount \$ 91,769.44

The above Estimate is respectfully submitted
 By
 Sir Yr. obt. Svt
 James Hoban

Report of James Hoban to the Commissioners of Public Buildings, February 5, 1819. After the burning of Washington, Congress briefly considered moving the capital to a more defensible location. Once it decided to stay, Congress voted an appropriation to begin rebuilding. James Hoban's unusually complete report of work to be done at the President's House shows how enormously complicated and costly the job of rebuilding such a fine house was.

RG 233, Records of the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 15A-D13.1)
 Reproduced with the permission of the House of Representatives



“A View of the Capitol of the United States after the Conflagration of 24 August 1814.”

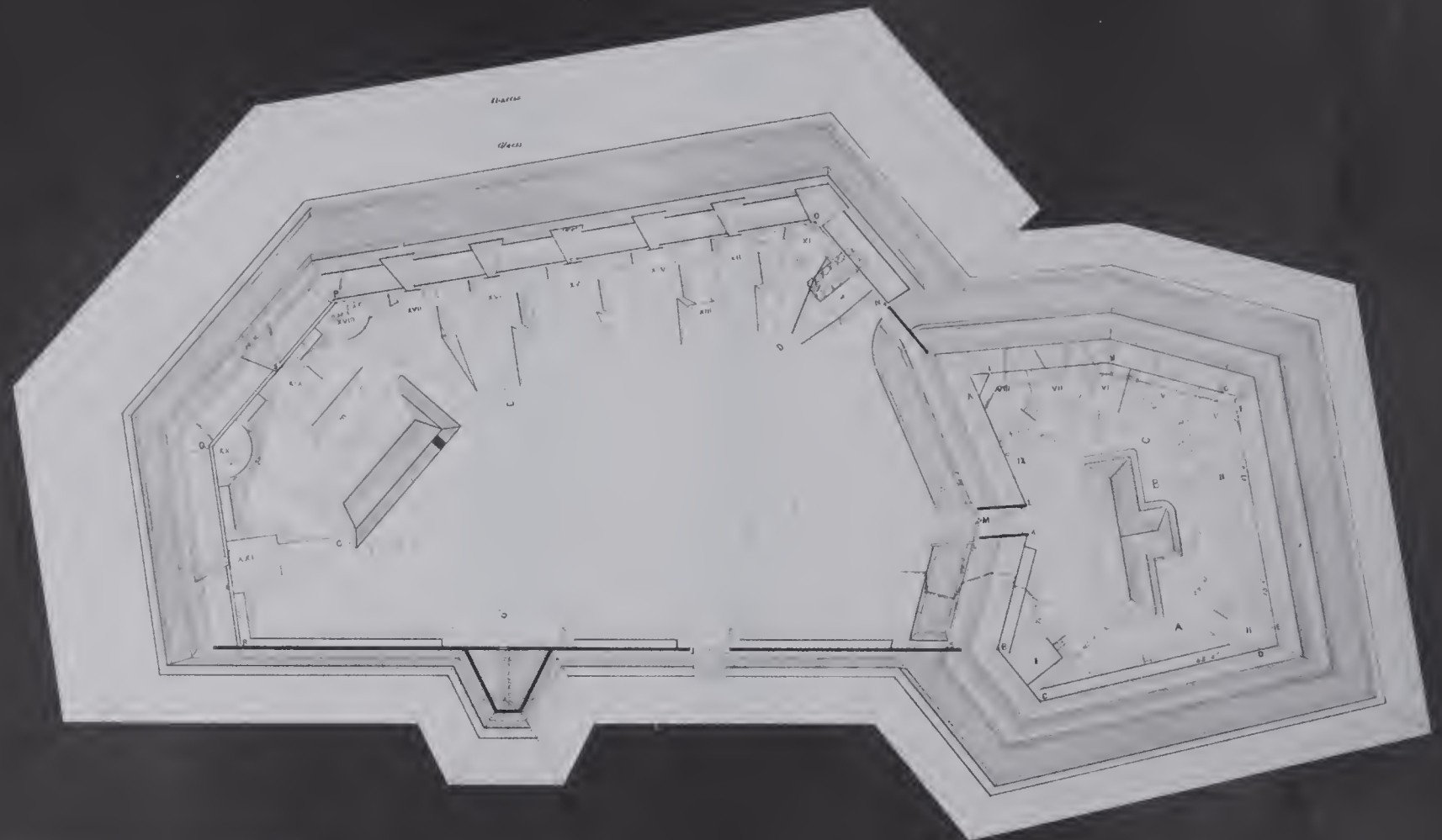
Congress returned to Washington to find the Capitol in ruins. It briefly considered leaving but a vote to move the Federal City fell short of a majority. After deciding to stay, it asked Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who had supervised the original construction of the Capitol, to return and supervise the rebuilding.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (1 SZ62-1802)

“Extension of Capitol,” 1857. By the late 1850s the Capitol had been rebuilt and expanded, and a new dome was under construction. Despite such improvements, the city was still quite rustic. Years later, Henry Adams recalled the Washington, DC, of the 1850s as a “rude colony . . . camped in the . . . forest with unfinished Greek temples for workrooms and sloughs for roads.”

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USA-7-5044)





"Fort Massachusetts, (later renamed Fort Stevens)." Located north of the city, Fort Stevens was the site of the only Civil War battle fought in the District of Columbia. On July 12, 1864, during the Battle of Fort Stevens, President Lincoln came under fire while visiting the troops defending the city.

RG 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers (Drawer 170, Sheet 87)



"Sleeping-bunks of the First Rhode Island Regiment at the Patent Office, Washington," Harper's Weekly, June 1, 1861. As Washington was flooded with troops to protect the city, many public buildings became temporary billets.

RG 64, Records of the National Archives and Records Administration (64-CC-30)



Lincoln Hospital, by Charles Magnus, 1864. Because of Washington, DC's proximity to many of the war's battlefields, wounded soldiers were not an unusual sight on city streets. Many wounded soldiers were brought here to convalesce in the city's temporary military hospitals.

Courtesy of the Historical Society of Washington, DC

HARPER'S WEEKLY

A JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

Vol. VI.—No. 307.]

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1862.

[SINGLE COPIES SIX CENTS.
\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.]

Printed according to Act of Congress, in the year 1862, by Harper & Brothers, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District of New York.



CONVALESCENT SOLDIERS PASSING THROUGH WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 15, 1862.

"View of Fort Gaines, defenses of Washington," ca. 1861–65, Brady Collection. The defenses of Washington consisted of 193 forts and batteries. Building this impressive defense system cost \$1.4 million.

RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer (111-B-627)



"Convalescent Soldiers passing through Washington, November 15, 1862."

RG 64, Records of the National Archives and Records Administration (64-CC-38)



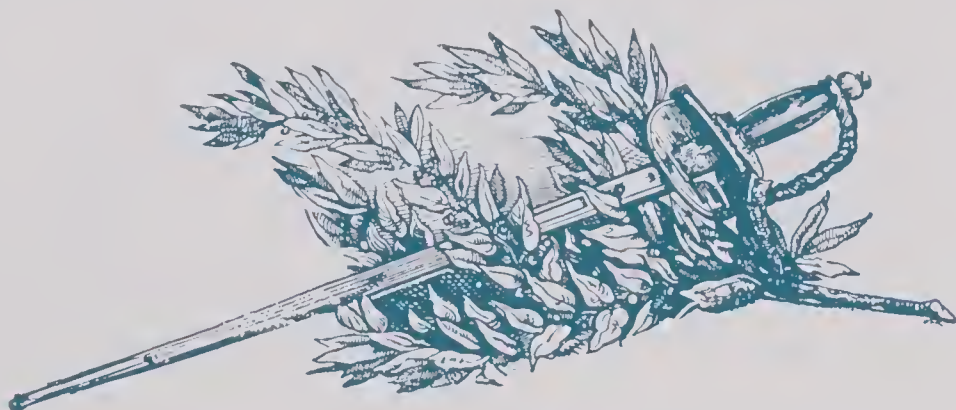
“Barracks at Fort Carroll, near Geisboro Point, District of Columbia,” ca. 1861–65. Brady Collection. In 1860 nearly 700 troops defended Washington, DC. The South’s secession put “enemy” territory just across the Potomac River, and the city quickly became an armed camp. By late June 1861, 50,000 volunteers were stationed in or around Washington. By the end of 1863, 20,000 troops manned the city’s defenses.

**RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers (111-B-456)*

“Old Capitol prison showing additions built after 1861,” ca. 1862–65, Brady Collection. After the British burned the Capitol in 1814, Congress met briefly in this plain brick building. During the Civil War the Old Capitol was converted to a prison and held suspected Confederate spies.

RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer (111-B-8)





Warrant asking for the return of Alfred Smith to William Offutt, May 16, 1862. Even after the outbreak of the Civil War, escaping from slavery was considered a "crime," and federal authorities could be commanded to apprehend and return slaves to their owners. Alfred Smith was one of many black slaves who sought freedom in the District of Columbia during the war.

RG 21, Records of District Courts of the United States, District Court of the District of Columbia, Fugitive Slave Cases, 1861-63

District of Columbia, To wit:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TO THE MARSHAL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—GREETING:

Whereas, a certain *William H. Offutt*, a citizen of, and residing in *Montgomery* County, in the State of *Maryland*, having made oath according to law that he is the lawful owner and possessor of certain negro slave named *Alfred Smith*.

about *twenty* years of age, slave for life, owing service and labor under the laws of the said State as such slave for life within the said State, and that said negro *has* absconded and is a fugitive from the service and labor so due and owing, and is now within your bailiwick:

Therefore, you are hereby commanded to arrest the body of the said alleged fugitive and have him before the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, forthwith to do and receive whatever may be considered by the Court in the premises.

Thereof fail not at your peril, and have you then and there this writ.

Witness the Hon. Jas. Dunlop, Chief Judge of said Court.

Issued this 11th day of May, 1862.

Wm. Smith

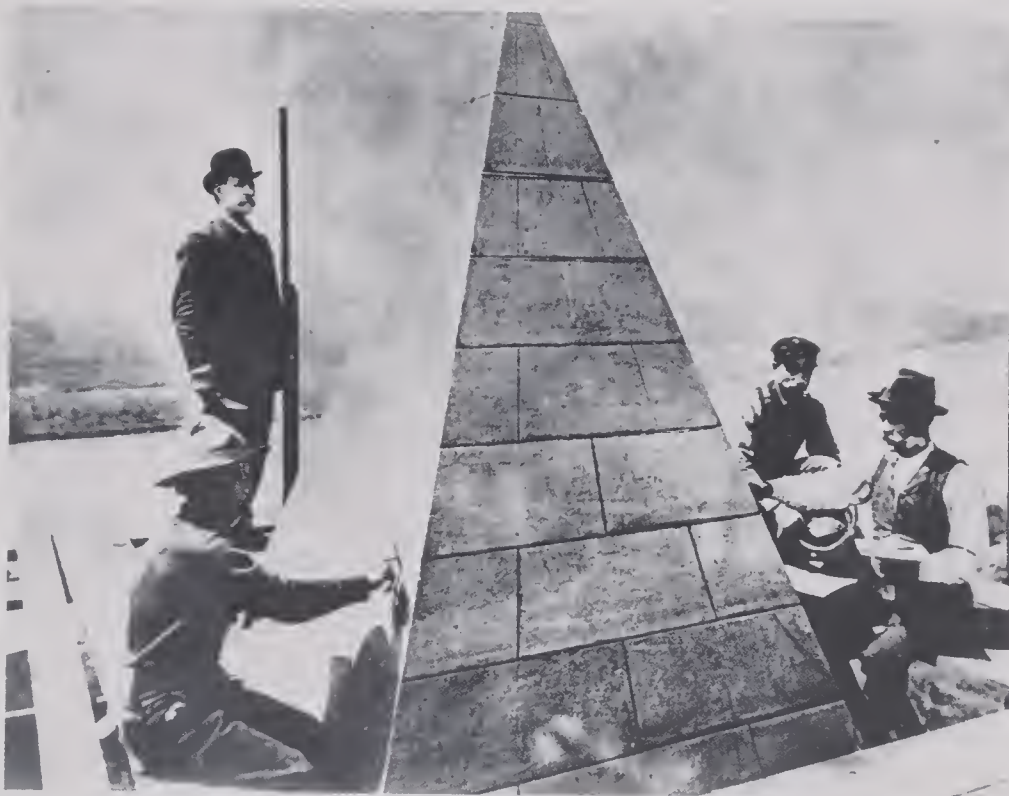


Alterations. Neglect or accidents of history contributed to other less dramatic but still significant changes in the city's appearance. Robert Mills's Washington Monument, for example, was designed in the 1840s but, because of lack of funding, stood unfinished until the 1870s when Congress decided to finally appropriate the money to complete a streamlined version of Mills's obelisk. When fire destroyed the Treasury Building in 1833, Mills was commissioned to build a new one on the same site. Mills's three-story structure was so large, however, that it encroached onto Pennsylvania Avenue and blocked the view from the Capitol to the White House, thus obliterating the vista L'Enfant had planned.

Two other Washington structures, the State, War, and Navy Building (now called the Old Executive Office Building) and the Old

"Sketch of the Washington Natl. Monument," ca. 1845, by Robert Mills. In 1833 the Washington National Monument Society organized to build this design by architect Robert Mills. Mills's plans called for a 600-foot-tall obelisk surrounded by a pantheon base with 30 doric columns representing the 30 states of the union in 1845.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, Washington National Monument Society, # 16



Construction of Top of Washington Monument, 1884.

**RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital (42-M-J-8)*

Partially Completed Washington Monument, ca. 1876. Just before the Civil War, work on the Washington Monument was halted because money ran out. The federal government took over the project from the Washington National Monument Society in 1876, with Congress appropriating \$200,000 to finish the project with a simplified version of Robert Mills's original design. The monument was completed in 1884.

RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (121-BD-54J)



Post Office, have weathered many shifts in architectural fashion. Both were built in styles that quickly fell from favor; both violated notions of the city's architectural unity; and both have struggled to survive. The State, War, and Navy Building, built in the French Second Empire style at the end of the 19th century, was especially disliked by President Herbert Hoover. But Depression-era austerity stopped his plans to reface it and turn it into a twin of the nearby neoclassical Treasury Building. The Neo-Romanesque Old Post Office was scheduled for destruction in the 1970s as a part of the Pennsylvania Avenue redevelopment plan. Citizen protest, however, not only saved the building but also convinced policy makers to adapt part of the building to commercial uses such as shops and restaurants. Today both buildings are treasured landmarks.

But if the State, War, and Navy and Old Post Office Buildings were lucky to survive bureaucratic wars over architectural style, then another of the city's major buildings, the Pension Building, owes its existence to a growing federal bureaucracy. The construction of this "fireproof building of brick and stone" was a response to the large number of veterans eligible for pensions after the Civil War. The new building not only provided the bureau with much-needed record storage space but offered its employees a well-lit and ventilated place to work. Constructed from 1882 to 1887 and designed by General Montgomery Meigs, today it houses the National Building Museum. Its Great Hall has hosted several inauguration balls.

"The City of Washington from Beyond the Navy Yard," 1834 by William James Bennett.

RG 59, General Records of the Department of State (59-DA-1)





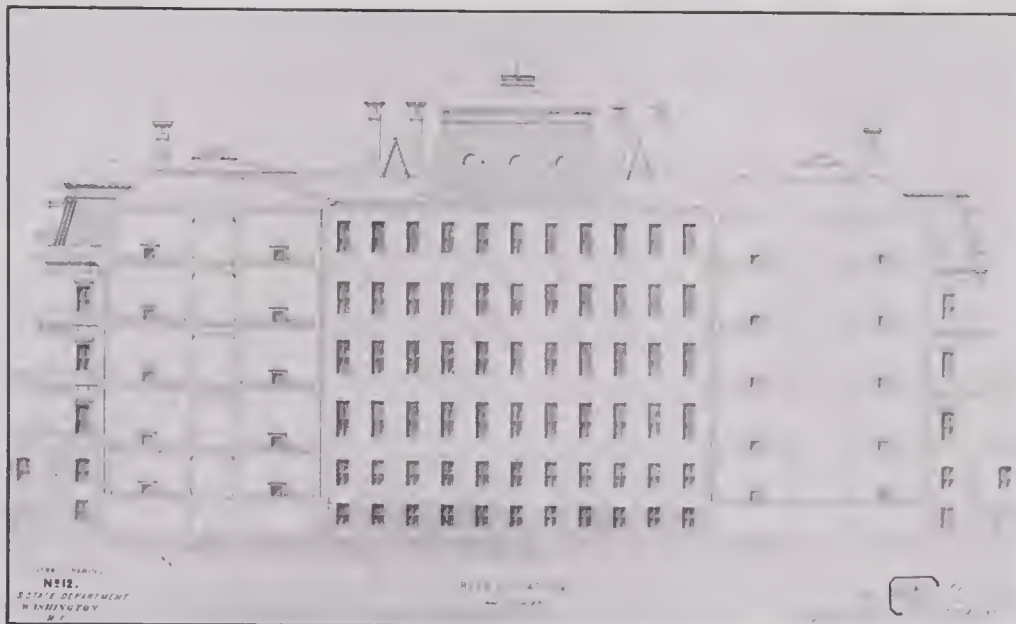
Treasury Department Under Construction, September 16, 1861.
Photograph by Louis Emory Walker. Architect Robert Mills called the long colonnaded side of the Treasury "the most extensive [colonnade] of modern times."

**RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (121-BC-9A)*



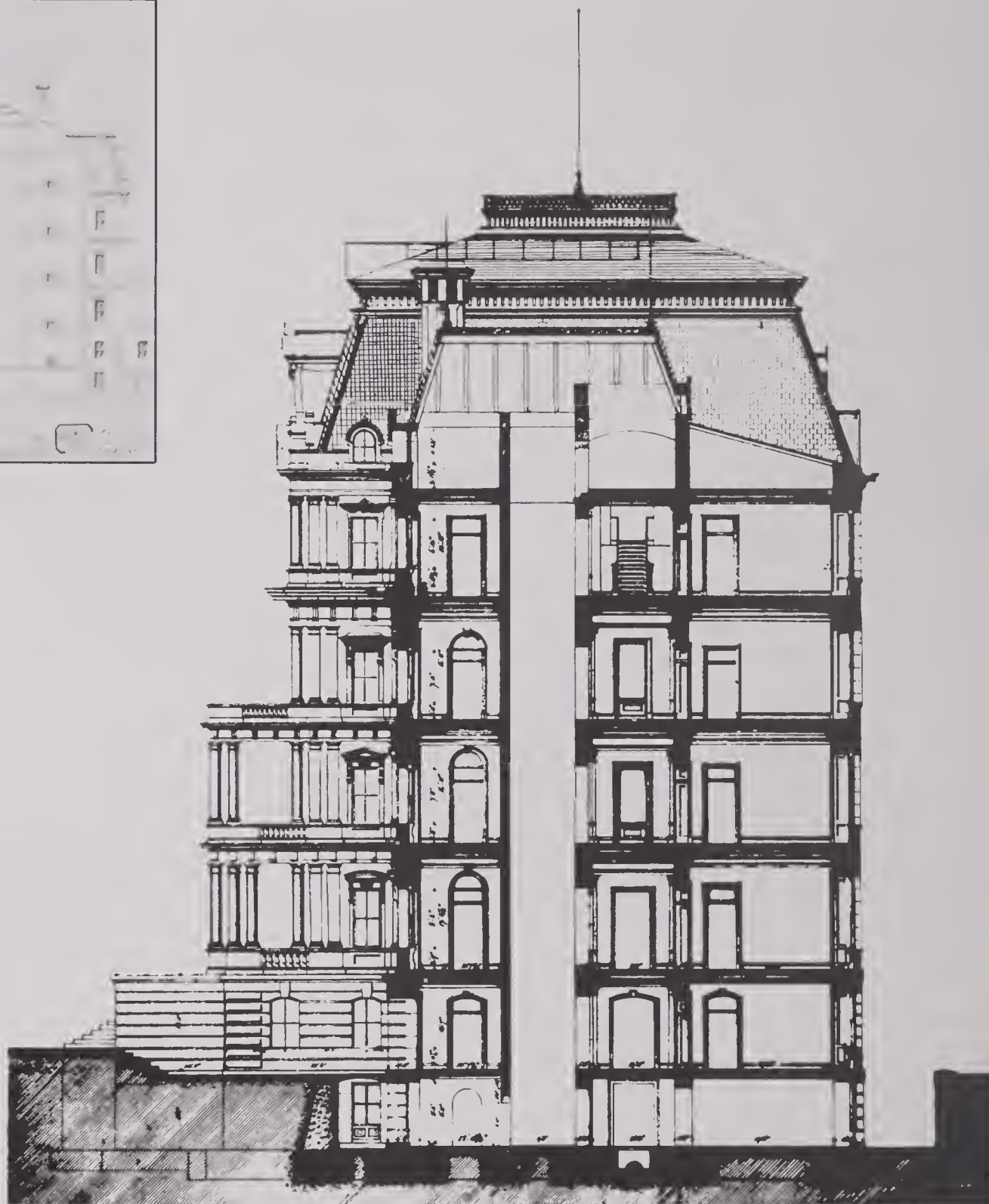
***"View of Washington," 1852 by E. Sachse.** This panoramic view of Washington, DC, shows the Capitol Building with its dome by Charles Bullfinch and the Washington Canal running along the Mall and cutting in front of the Capitol. Robert Mills's Washington Monument can be seen in the distance.*

**RG 66, Records of the Commission of Fine Arts (66-HW-116)*



State, War, and Navy Building, rear elevation and section south wing, ca. 1871.

RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (folder 3, drawing 10)



State, War, and Navy Building, section of north wing, ca. 1879.

Completed in 1888 after 17 years of construction, the State, War, and Navy Building (now known as the Old Executive Office Building) was designed by Alfred Burt Mullett and completed by Richard von Enzendorf. The building's French Second Empire style was immediately controversial, and the structure has survived many attempts at demolition.

RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (folder 38, drawing 7)



Terra-cotta frieze by Caspar Buberl, Pension Building. One of the Pension Building's most distinctive features is a terra-cotta frieze sculpted by Caspar Buberl depicting Civil War soldiers and sailors.

Photograph by Harlen Hambricht

Washington D.C.
5th April 1884

Memorandum

I. H. M. of Pension Building
Have considerable row 120 men at work on
Second floor North half of Building
Revealing up the outer walls, turning arches,
the dome of building up cross walls.
Have begun setting poles to scaffold the
great columns, so as to carry them up
Wind not quite so strong but still heavy.
It has done much damage to fishing boats
down the Potomac. Day pleasant except the
too strong wind

W. W. Meigs
Sub. Engineer & Architect

Memorandum to Record, Montgomery Meigs, April 5, 1884.

Montgomery Meigs, supervising engineer and architect of the Pension Building, kept meticulous records of the building's progress. Here he describes the construction of the building's outer walls, archways, and the massive columns in the Great Hall.

RG 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Daily Memoranda, 1882-1887



Construction of the Pension Building, November 1, 1883. At the time of its construction, the Pension Building was the largest brick building ever built. It used 15,500,000 bricks and cost \$900,000.

**RG 15, Records of the Veterans Administration (15-M-2)*



Old Post Office Building after restoration, ca. 1984. The Old Post Office was the first building restored under the Cooperative Use Act of 1976. This act permitted, for the first time, commercial activities to take place in federal buildings. At the Old Post Office, restaurants and shops occupy the first three floors, and government agencies use the upper floors.

Photograph by Marcia Axtmann Smith

Courtesy of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Post Office Building, (not dated). By the late 19th century, Washington needed a new central post office. This building, now known as the "Old Post Office" on Pennsylvania Avenue at 12th Street, NW, was built to fill that need. Mail was sorted on the large lower floor, and the massive atrium above provided light for all the building's workers.

RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (121-BA-6826)



What Might Have Been. Thinking about Washington, DC's changing appearance raises a fascinating question: What might have been? Washington could have looked radically different. Designs for many government buildings and monuments were obtained through open competitions. Many people who fancied themselves architects submitted designs that, while novel, were neither practical nor beautiful. In other instances, talented architects or draftsmen submitted designs, but their ideas conflicted with the judges' notions.

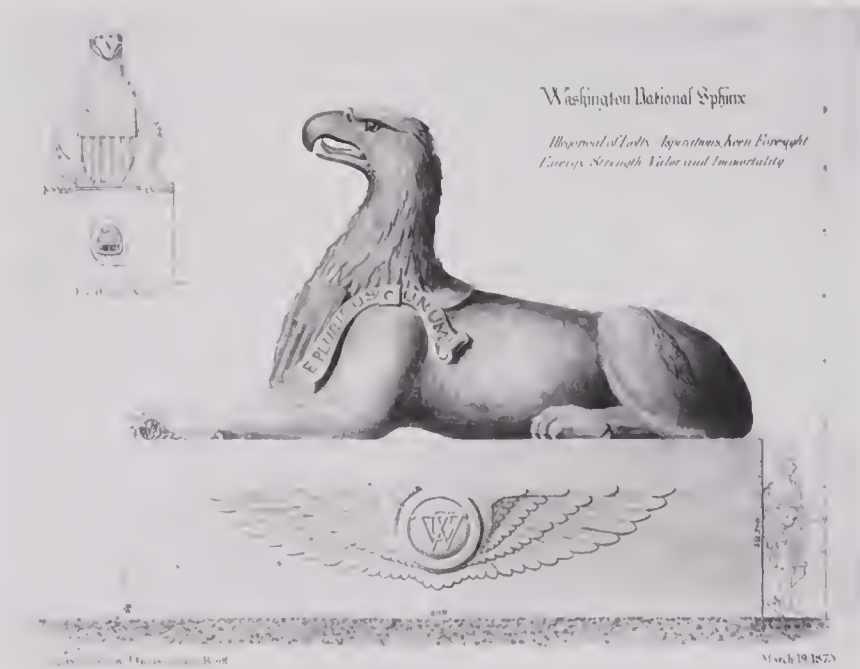
One of the earliest of these competitions was held in 1792 to select a design for the Capitol Building. Because of the building's importance and because none other than President Washington was to be the judge, it was expected there would be numerous submissions. Unfortunately, there were only a few and the quality of the

field was, in Washington's words, "very dull." But to our modern eyes, the possibility of Congress meeting in a building topped with figures of scantily clad figures, as in Philip Hart's losing entry, is intriguing to say the least!

James Hoban's 1792 design for the President's House has changed over the years to meet the demands of the growing executive branch. The most conspicuous example of this was the addition of the West Wing in 1902 under the direction of Edith Roosevelt. But other First Ladies have been known for their efforts at refurbishing the White House. In the 1890s Caroline Harrison, wife of President Benjamin Harrison, together with architect Frederick D. Owen, conceived of a plan that would have expanded the White House, Victorianized its exterior, and enclosed much of the grounds. While today's Secret Service may look fondly on the security

Washington National Sphinx, ca. 1873. Government draftsman J. Goldsborough Bruff suggested surrounding the Washington Monument with these sphinxes “of colossal proportions, to be bronze upon granite, suitably sculptured. Rendering it in a true Egyptian style I have nationalized it by the head and breast of our national bird.” Bruff also suggested carving an “all seeing eye” in the middle of Mills’s obelisk.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, of the National Capital, Washington National Monument Society



aspects of Frederick Owen’s plans, the rest of us may be thankful that Congress balked at funding these changes, thus saving the integrity of Hoban’s original design.

Memorials have also been subject to design competitions, and these, too, could have looked much different had other tastes prevailed. Because of their prominence, the three best-known memorials in Washington — to George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson — were the objects of much debate. When the long-delayed Washington Monument was completed in the 1870s, government draftsman J. Goldsborough Bruff suggested ringing the obelisk with sphinxes symbolizing “Lofty Aspirations, Keen Foresight, Energy, Strength, Valor, and Immortality.” Instead of Henry Bacon’s classical design for the Lincoln Memorial, we might have had one of John Russell Pope’s concepts, among them a funeral pyre, a pyramid, and a ziggurat.

The last of Washington’s major monuments, the Jefferson Memorial, was controversial because its classical form was seen by

some as outdated and too grand to “epitomize [Jefferson’s] great love for the common people.” Since its construction necessitated destroying several of the city’s beloved cherry trees, its location on the Tidal Basin caused protest. A group opposing construction chained themselves to the trees fated for removal. Their efforts were, of course, unsuccessful, and today the peaceful setting around the memorial looks as if it could hardly have stirred any controversy.

Today, we too often take the vistas, buildings, and monuments of Washington for granted. Many are so familiar that it is easy to think of them as changeless and timeless. The images in this book offer us an alternative Washington. Though the city’s original plan anticipated growth, many unforeseen forces contributed to making Washington what it is today. The Capital’s buildings and monuments, so indelibly etched in our minds, could have been much different.

"The Dedication of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, April 13, 1943." The Jefferson Memorial was designed by John Russell Pope, who also designed the National Archives Building and the National Gallery of Art.

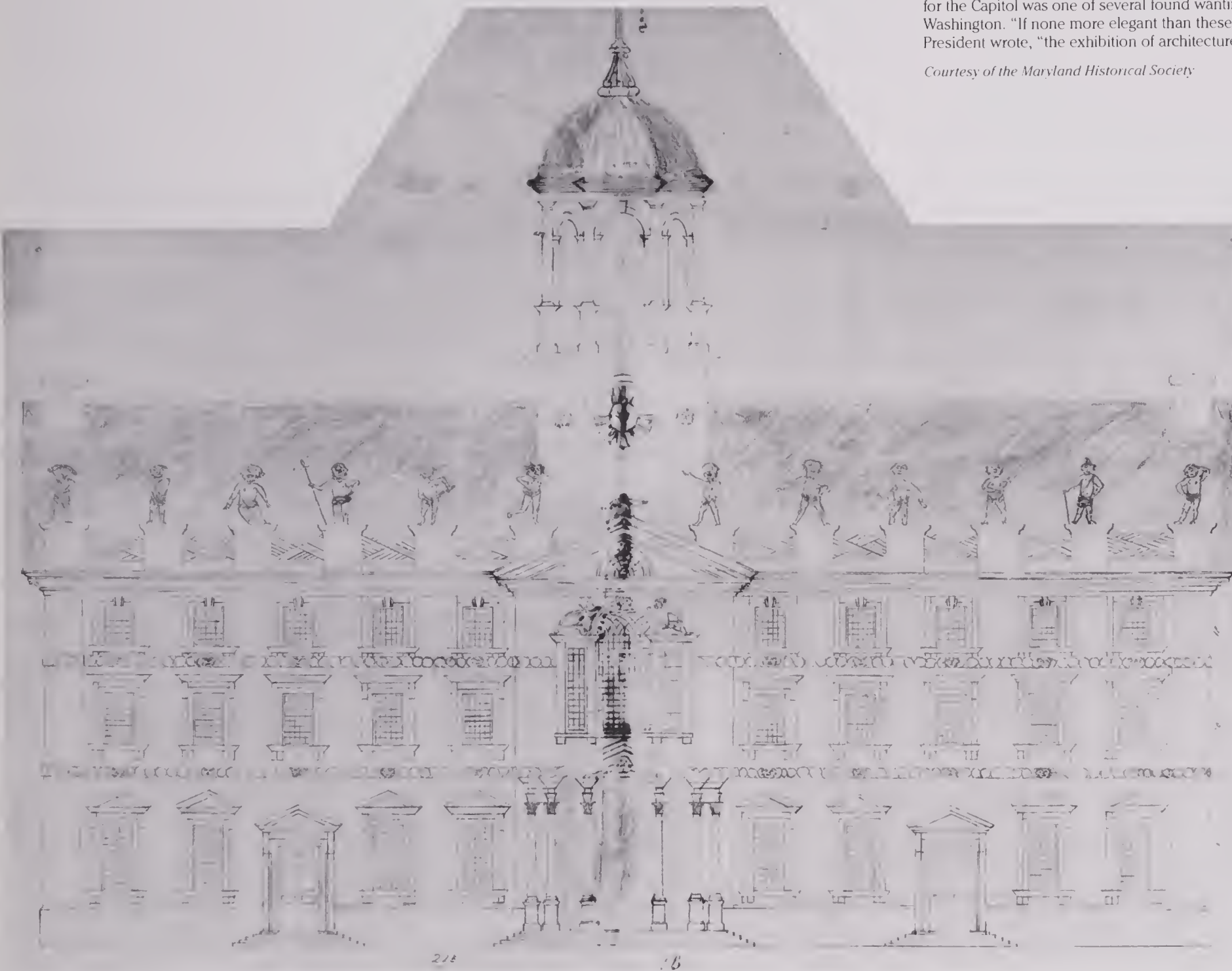
**RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer (111-WDC-SC-168080-B-NFS)*

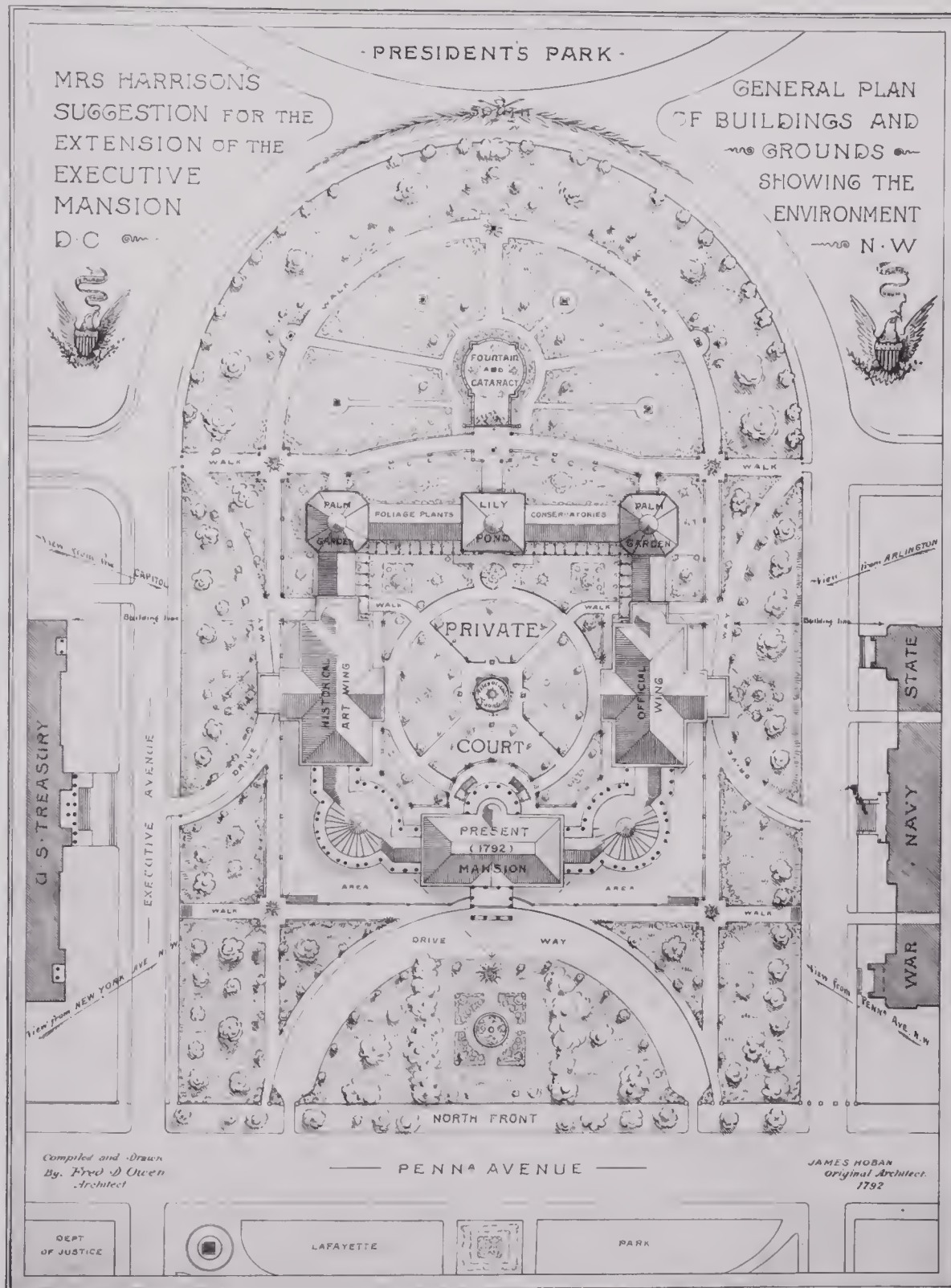


"Entry for Capitol design competition by Philip Hart, ca. 1793."

The face of the city of Washington might have been radically different had prevailing tastes or the people in charge of making selections been different. For example, Philip Hart's entry for the design competition for the Capitol was one of several found wanting by judge George Washington. "If none more elegant than these should appear . . ." the President wrote, "the exhibition of architecture will be very dull indeed."

Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society





Mrs. Harrison's suggestions for White House grounds, ca. 1889–93. Caroline Harrison, wife of President Benjamin Harrison, together with architect Frederick D. Owen, conceived this plan for a new treatment of the White House grounds.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, Executive Mansion

Opposite: **Lincoln Memorial interior, June 9, 1912.** Jules Guerin's mural on the Lincoln Memorial's south wall depicts the Angel of Truth freeing a slave; the angel is flanked by groups of figures representing Justice and Immortality.

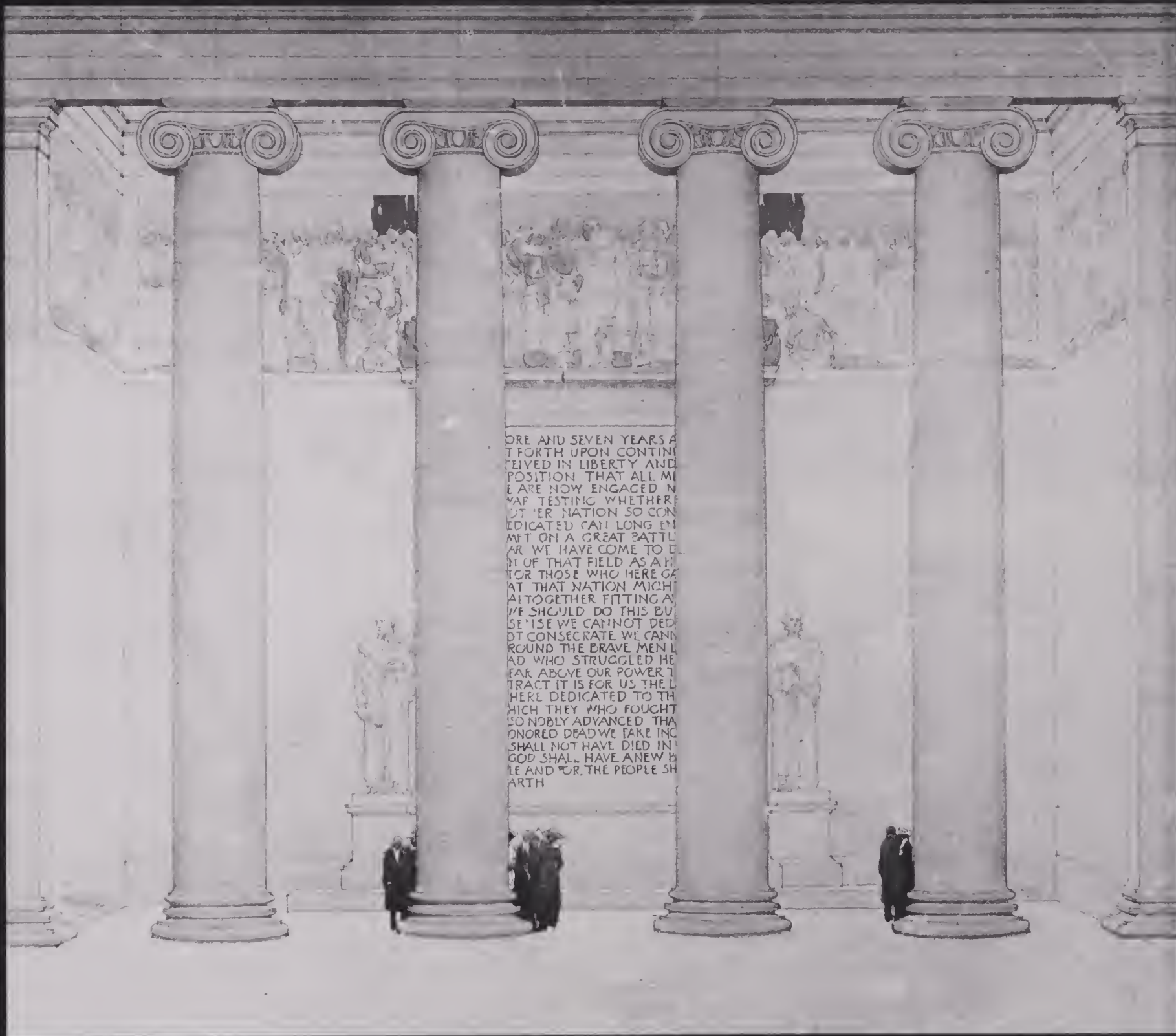
RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital

Alternative design for a monument to Abraham Lincoln, 1912.

Architect John Russell Pope proposed 10 different designs for the Lincoln Memorial. His designs ran the stylistic gamut from classical to the funeral pyre you see here.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, Lincoln Memorial Competition Designs





FOUR AND SEVEN YEARS AGO
STOOD FORTH UPON CONTINENT
RECEIVED IN LIBERTY AND
POSITION THAT ALL MEN
ARE NOW ENGAGED IN
A TESTING WHETHER
OF THIS NATION SO CON-
DEDICATED CAN LONG EN-
DURE ON A GREAT BATTLE-
FIELD WE HAVE COME TO
REMEMBER THOSE WHO HERE
GAVE THEIR LIVES THAT
NATION MIGHT LIVE
TOGETHER FITTING AN-
THEM WE SHOULD DO THIS BUT
IF WE CANNOT DO THIS
WE CANNOT CONSECRATE
WE CANNOT DEDICATE
THE BRAVE MEN
WHO STRUGGLED HERE
TO US FAR ABOVE OUR POWER
TO REACH IT IS FOR US THE
LIVING HERE DEDICATED TO THE
WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT
SO NOBLY ADVANCED THAT
HONORED DEAD WE TAKE IN
WE SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN
GOD SHALL HAVE A NEW BATTLE
AND FOR THE PEOPLE SHALL
LIVE ON EARTH



Lincoln Memorial model, ca. 1910. Architect Henry Bacon had this model built to bolster his entry in the Lincoln Memorial design competition. Bacon's design was selected, and ground was broken on February 12, 1914. The classical architecture of the Memorial was inspired by the Parthenon atop the Acropolis in Athens. The 36 Doric columns around the outside of the memorial symbolize the 36 states in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death.

Model courtesy of General Services Administration and the National Building Museum

Photograph by Joel Breger

Opposite, left: "Assembling the statue of Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial, 1920." The statue of Lincoln inside the memorial was done by noted sculptor Daniel Chester French. It represents Lincoln the War President and stands 19 feet high. In this photograph, French (left) stands next to the Memorial's architect, Henry Bacon.

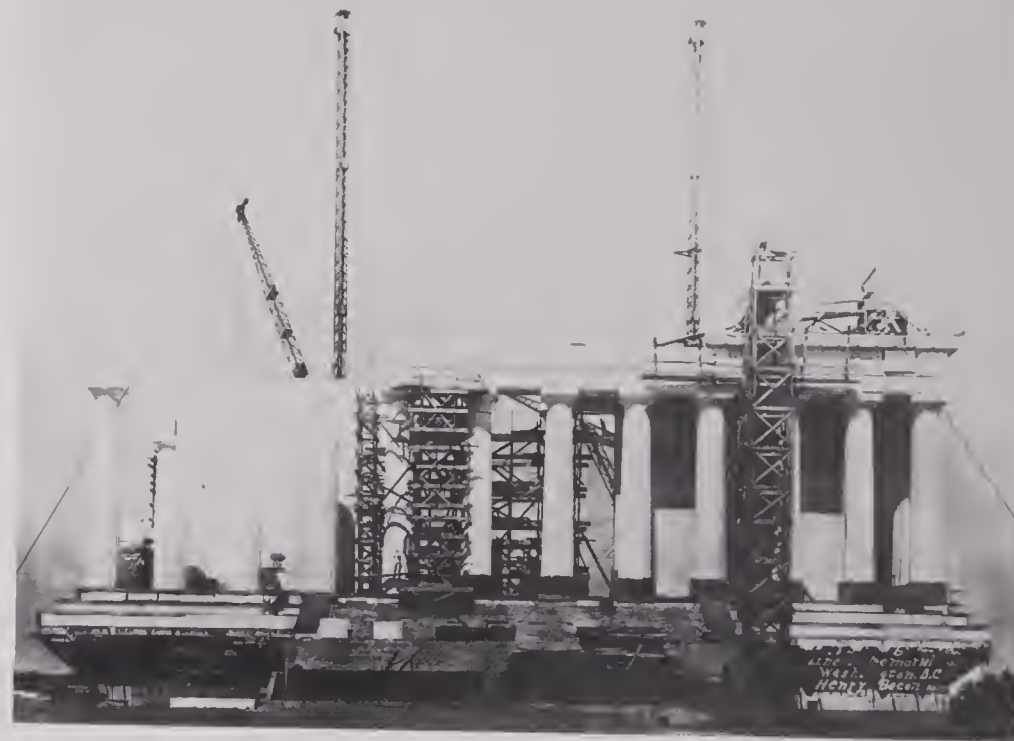
**RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer (111-SC-74827)*

Opposite, upper right: "Construction of the Lincoln Memorial, June 1, 1916."

**RG 64, Records of the National Archives and Records Administration (64-NPL499)*

Opposite, lower right: "Lincoln Memorial, showing crowds attending dedication exercises," May 31, 1922. A crowd of approximately 50,000 people gathered on Decoration Day 1922 for the dedication of the Memorial. The major address of the day was given by a black man, Dr. Robert R. Moton, President of Tuskegee Institute. The ceremonies were disrupted when black guests refused to be seated in a segregated section of the audience. Moton went ahead with his speech, but 20 other blacks left the ceremony in protest.

**RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer (111-SC-74831)*



“The plan marked out for this metropolis of the empire, is gigantic. . . . How many centuries shall pass away ere the clusters of little villages now scattered over this plain, shall assume the form and magnificence of an imperial city?”

Frances D'Arusmont

Views of Society and Manners in America, 1822

Part 2

Washington as *Home*





Beginnings. When President George Washington selected the site for the nation's capital in 1790, the land he chose on the banks of the Potomac was not uninhabited wilderness. For thousands of years, Native Americans had lived in and near what we now call Washington, DC. Recent archaeological discoveries in the area indicate a human presence as long ago as 9500 B.C. These "first Washingtonians" were primarily hunter-gatherers. By 500 B.C. they had developed the ability to manufacture simple pottery, and by the first century A.D. they were cultivating maize. The remains of their villages have been found at three distinct sites in the District: along the eastern banks of the Anacostia River, near Roosevelt Island, and along the bluffs of the Potomac River near what is now MacArthur Boulevard and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

By 1790 these native peoples were gone, but the descendants of

the European settlers who had driven them out had created several settlements below the Great Falls on the Potomac. Georgetown and Alexandria were busy ports. Two small settlements, Hamburgh and Carrollsburgh, were also nearby. But for the most part, what is today the city of Washington was occupied by plantations growing corn and tobacco. The spot where the Capitol stands was called Jenkins Hill. Tyber, or Goose, Creek ran from what is now North Capitol Street west along Constitution Avenue, NW, to the Potomac.

Although a site had been chosen and settlements established by 1800, creating a community proved to be a difficult task. The 10 years Congress had given George Washington and the city's three commissioners was barely enough to begin the process of transforming this sparsely settled spot into a city fit to be the capital of a new and growing nation. Congress appropriated no money for



Prehistoric artifacts found near Howard Road, Anacostia.

Archaeological finds such as these projectile points have been used to document the existence of a flourishing Native American culture as long ago as 9500 B.C. in what is now the District of Columbia.

Photograph by Joel Breger

Courtesy of the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Division

public buildings — that money was to come from the public sale of building lots by the federal government. President Washington had to enter into protracted negotiations with those who owned the land, and once the land was acquired by the federal government, sales were disappointing. In May 1800 many federal records and officials' belongings at last began to arrive, and on November 21, 1800, Congress first met in Washington, DC.

The town they found was little more than a few foundations surrounded by dense forest. There were few amenities. Streets were mired in mud when it rained, and dust storms blew when it was dry. Public buildings stood half-finished and surrounded by debris for years. Around 1800, First Lady Abigail Adams hung laundry in the White House, and a servant of the Secretary of State killed a “brownish snake” inside the secretary’s home. When Congress first convened, apologetic residents wrote to Congress and the President asking their indulgence for “the temporary inconveniences and privations to which you have been exposed.”

In this village lived a widely scattered population of nearly 15,000. Its residents included congressmen who lived here while Congress was in session and diplomats representing their governments. In 1800 there was also a free black population of almost 800 and a slave population of more than 3,200. Nearly 600 houses were within the confines of the District, yet many observers stressed the rural isolation of the new city. “Everything here seems in a dead calm,” wrote one congressman; “an absolute supineness overwhelms all.”

From these small beginnings Washingtonians created and built the institutions of community: government, jobs, neighborhoods, education, charities, and police protection. How some of these institutions developed is unique to Washington; in other ways the District of Columbia is like many other cities. What follows is a very brief history of everyday life in one city – a history that focuses on those institutions of community Washington calls its own.

***"Town of Secota,"** not dated, engraving by Theodore De Bry after John White. The "first Washingtonians" probably lived in small villages along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, similar to the Native American settlement pictured here.*

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USZ62-52444)





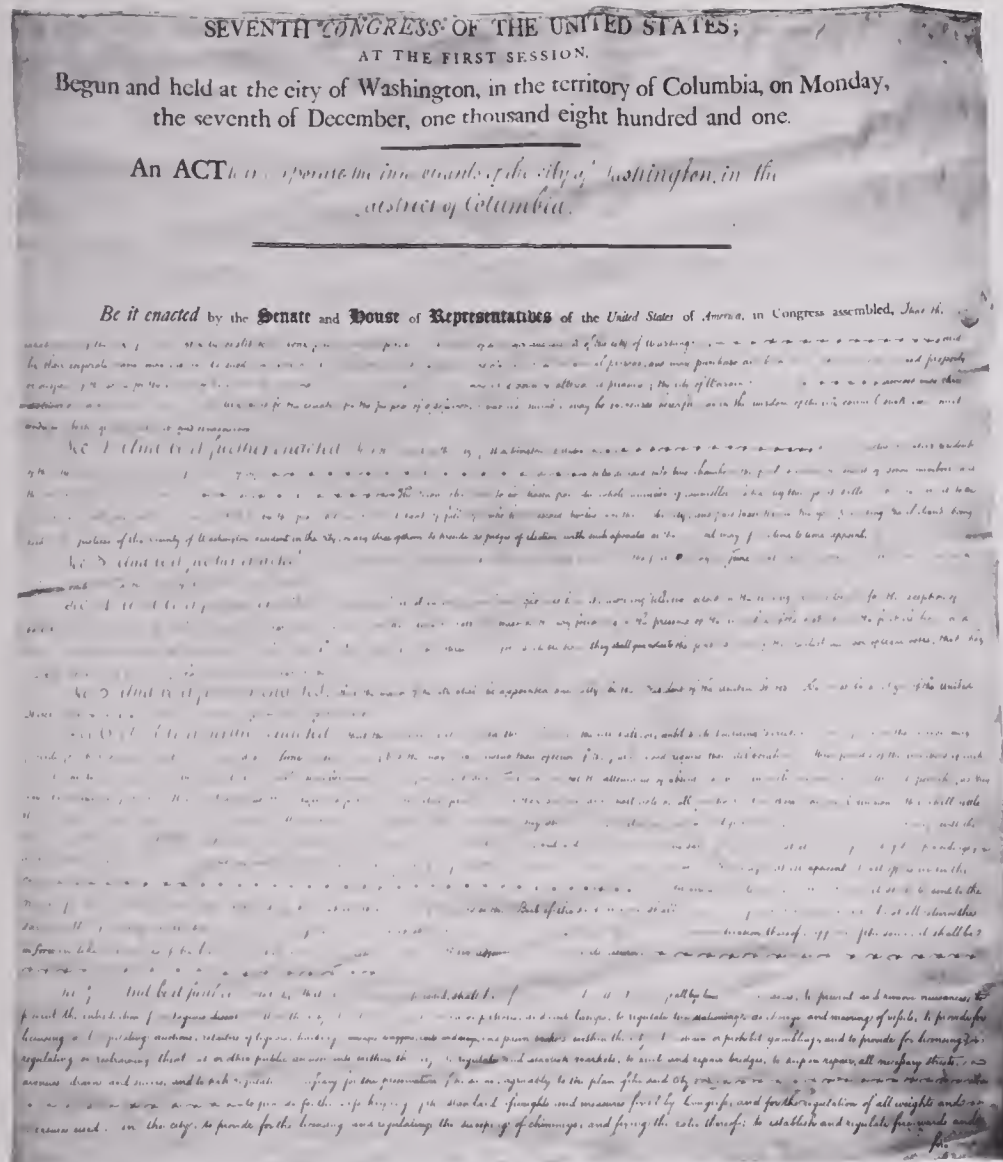
“View of the City of Washington in 1792.” This map illustrates who owned the land that is today Washington, DC. It greatly exaggerates the size of Hamburg and Carrollsburg, which in reality were no more than a few scattered buildings. Most lands around the site of the new Federal City belonged to plantations growing corn and tobacco.

RG 66, Records of the Commission of Fine Arts, Historic Maps # 13

“View of Blodgett’s Hotel with the White House and Treasury Building in the distance,” ca. 1816. This watercolor by Nicholas King, who worked as city surveyor, shows Washington when it was a city where new government buildings and hotels mixed easily with images of rural life.

Courtesy of the Huntington Library





1802 Charter for Washington, DC. The city's first charter created a city council and a mayor's office. Congress, in keeping with its constitutional mandate "to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever," continued to reserve for itself final authority over local affairs. Over the last 188 years the District's government has been altered many times.

RG 11, General Records of the United States Government

Government and Jobs. One of the first tasks that Congress addressed once it had taken up residence in Washington was how to govern the new federal district. Because of its special status as the nation's capital and because it is a part of no state, the Constitution grants Congress the right "to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever." Congress acted quickly to assert this authority, creating a government that remains unique among American cities. In 1802 local citizens petitioned Congress and received their first city charter. That document gave white male property owners the right to elect a city council. The President, however, appointed the city's mayor, and Congress continued to reserve for itself final authority over the District.

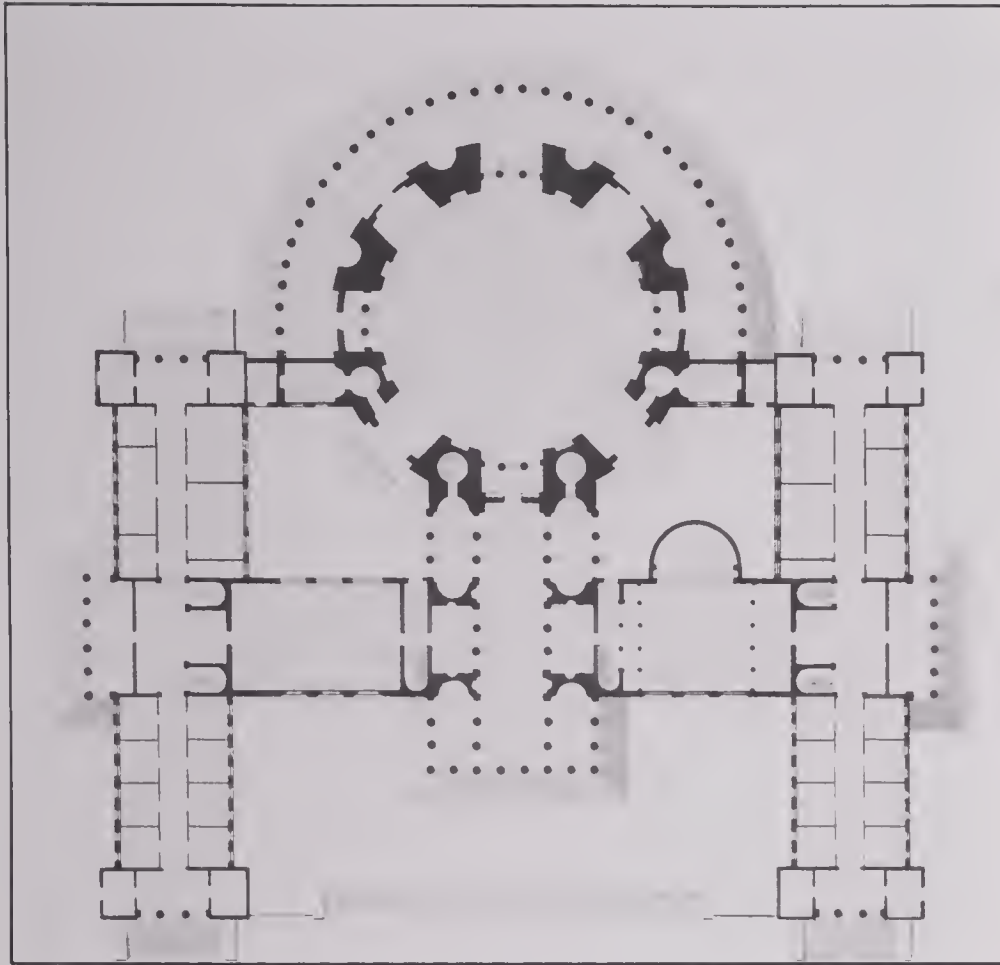
During the next 188 years there were seven forms of government in the District. The District has never had a voting member of Congress nor could its citizens vote in Presidential elections between 1800 and 1964. Finally, in 1973, Congress granted the District limited “home rule” and, while continuing to assert its ultimate authority, allowed citizens to elect their own officials and begin to govern their own affairs. But whatever the form of local government, between 1802 and 1973 Congress, especially the House of Representatives Committee on the District of Columbia, was the determining voice in District policy making. Even such purely local matters as taxes, zoning, mass transit, and road construction were subject to congressional interference.

This “peculiar condition” of legislative influence without representation has drawn many criticisms, comments, and suggestions for change over the years. An 1824 petition compared the city’s political condition to one of “vassalage.” A 1909 petition echoed the language of the American Revolution in its call for a new, more democratic form of District government — “taxation without representation was tyranny,” it declared. Such a government was “undemocratic, unrepublican, un-American, and contrary to the . . . principles in defense of which our . . . forefathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.”

If the District’s government was unique, the working lives of Washingtonians were more similar to that of other cities than one might think. Washingtonians have always held a variety of jobs. To be sure, the presence of the federal government here has meant that

*“Our charter, almost out of date
Has only served to help the great . . .
We want a better one indeed —
One that will give us what we need
A good police and lamps by night, . . .
A District School, to teach our sons,
who wander now like Goths or Huns . . .
And more than all we want the right
To vote for those who rule in might.”*

Washington *Metropolis*
October 26, 1839



Original Design for Washington, DC, City Hall, ca. 1820.

A modified version of George Hadfield's 1818 design for Washington, DC's City Hall still stands today (without the dome) on Indiana Avenue, NW.

Courtesy of the Historical Society of Washington, DC

many residents have been employed by Uncle Sam. But federal employment has been only part of the story. For example, from the city's earliest years until the present, stonemasons and other skilled construction workers have been attracted to the area by the possibility of work on the city's public buildings and monuments. Other workers have labored in breweries, the printing trades, hotels and boarding houses, or one of the city's many banks.

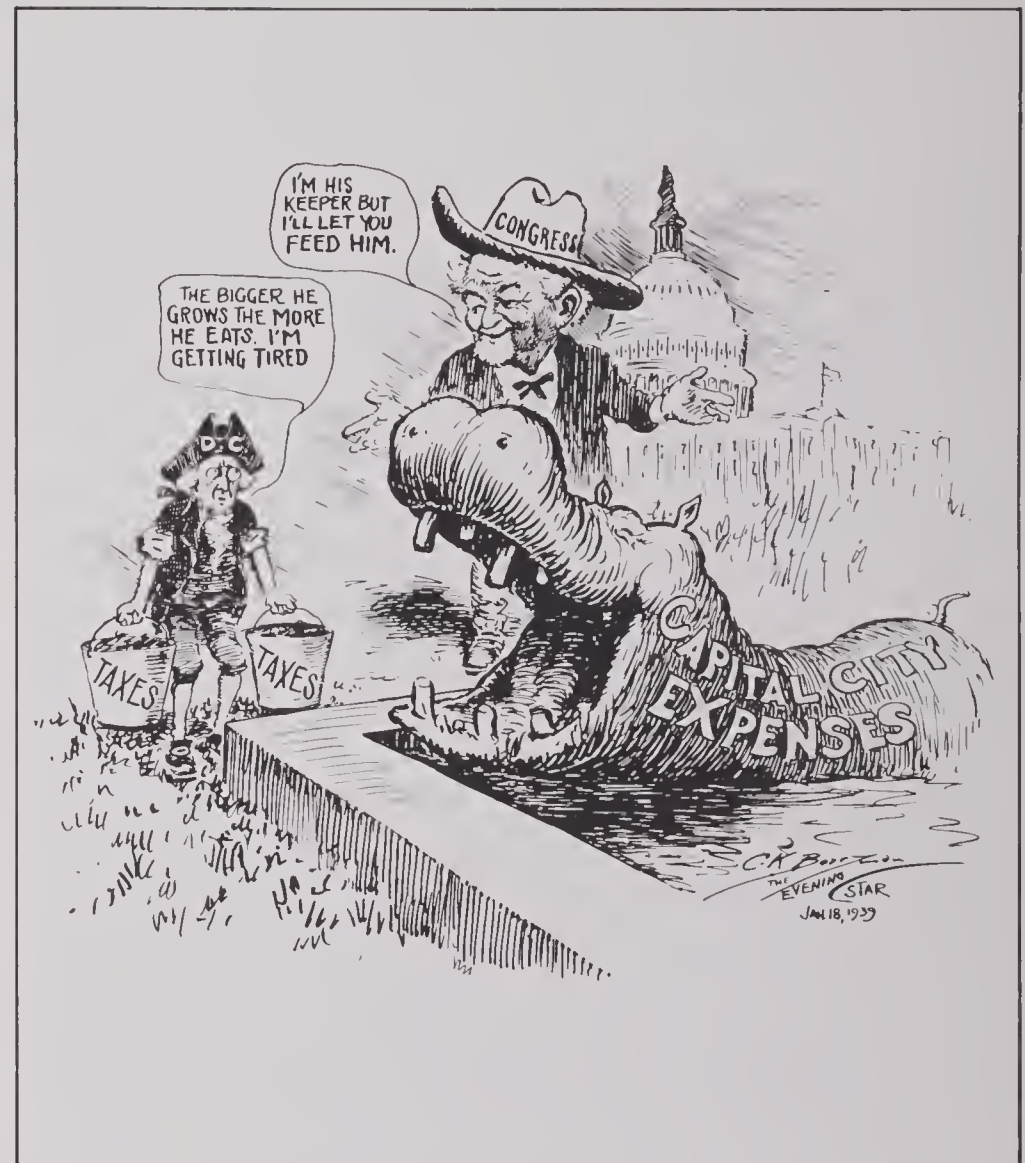
But in Washington (as in other American cities) employment opportunities were influenced by the reality of racial and sex discrimination. By 1900 black Washingtonians had developed a small but accomplished professional class that included 10 dentists, 30 lawyers, and 50 doctors. Most blacks, however, were segregated into unskilled labor or service positions such as waiters, domestics, pullman porters, or day laborers on construction jobs. Despite Washington's large black population, in 1908 only 9 of the city's 498 firemen were black, and by 1910 the State Department employed no blacks above the rank of messenger.

By the end of the 19th century, women made up an increasing proportion of those who worked outside the home. In Washington, many women, especially black women, worked as domestics, cooks, or waitresses. White women did these jobs, too, but for them additional employment opportunities expanded as the federal bureaucracy grew. Many worked as clerks, stenographers, typists, and copyists. Growth in the female work force was especially great during wartime. The Civil War and World Wars I and II brought thousands of women seeking employment to the nation's capital.



"Cinderella," April 16, 1887, by an unidentified artist. The political status of the District of Columbia has always been uncertain and controversial. The city's lack of a voting representative in Congress and Washingtonians' disfranchisement in federal elections were the subject of this cartoon from the 1880s.

Courtesy of the Martin Luther King Memorial Library



"Capital City Expenses," January 18, 1939, by Clifford Berryman. Congress's influence over the District's affairs made a good subject for several generations of political cartoonists. Here Washington cartoonist Clifford Berryman lampoons the fact that for years Congress imposed higher local taxes on District residents to pay for what Berryman thought were projects that should have been funded by the federal government.

Courtesy of the Martin Luther King Memorial Library

The President and
directors of the Ches.
& Ohio Canal Company

Washington August 2^d 1829

Gentlemen

The Breue James O.'Brien
who has just finished Deck house No. 5 on Section
5, is an excellent stone mason and has made one of
the best, if not the very best, jobs of stone work on the
line, and that too, out of very bad materials, and by
leave to recommend him to the board as a good practical
mechanic who does his work faithfully -

Mr. O'Brien has put three wooden shelves
in one of the closets at my request, and he has
also put a stoop with three steps and a platform
3 feet 6 inches wide, at the door, which he says was not
in the contract, as blue stone could not be had convenient
ly - I am Gentlemen

with the greatest respect
Your Obedt. Servt.

Robert Leckie
Inspector of Machinery 1st Division
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal -

Letter of introduction for stonemason James O'Brien. Robert Leckie to the President and Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, August 2, 1829. For a skilled worker like stonemason James O'Brien, a reference such as this one meant the possibility of continued employment working at one of the city's construction projects or along the canals near Washington, DC.

RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, Correspondence Received by President and Director



Construction of Decorations, Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, August 8, 1891. Much of the decorative stonework on the Library of Congress building was done by immigrant stonemasons from Italy.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USZ62-51459)

"Maid with small children," ca. 1910. This photograph was taken at Washington, DC's Meridian Hill Park by a federal government photographer to illustrate the textured wall in the background. It is also illustrative of the way in which many black women residents of the District earned their livelihoods — as domestics caring for others' children.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital (42-SPB-18)



Office of the Secretary of the Treasury.
DIVISION OF APPOINTMENTS.
Form 206.

I, *Addison A. Syphax*

do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So HELP ME GOD.

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this *first* day
of *May*, A. D. 188*6*

[L. S.]

(Ed. 3-5 '86—1,500)

Addison A. Syphax

Jas. N. Fitzpatrick
Notary Public.

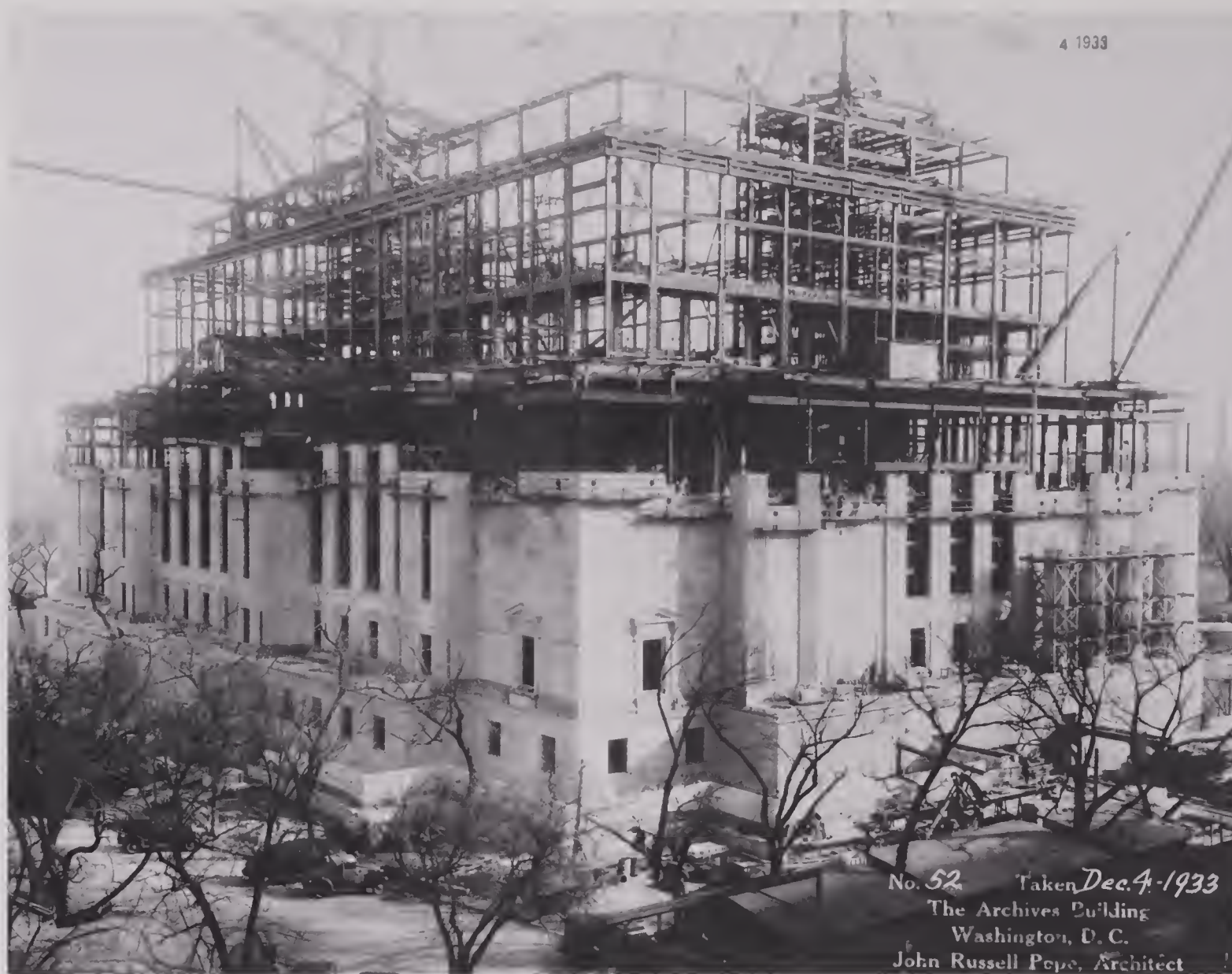
Oath of office of Addison Syphax, May 1, 1886. Federal workers are required to take this oath to obtain employment with the government. During the 19th century, thousands of Washingtonians such as Addison Syphax would have made and renewed their oath in writing. Mr. Syphax worked for 44 years with the Treasury Department.

RG 56, General Records of the Department of the Treasury



"Condiment Stand in Center Market," February 18, 1915. For years the heart of the city's business district was the Center Market located at 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. In 1890 one visitor observed, "The daily business in and around this splendid structure is simply enormous. . . . It is a scene of wonderful variety and animation."

RG 83, Records of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (83-G-3653)



Construction of the National Archives Building, December 4, 1933. Center Market was razed during the 1930s to make way for the Federal Triangle buildings, specifically, the National Archives.

RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (121-BCP-111B-52)



"A prefabricated house, proposed for housing government workers," May 6, 1941. Both world wars brought severe housing shortages to Washington, DC. As war workers arrived, the government and the private sector found unique ways to house them. This dwelling was made of steel with canvas interior partitions. Construction took 6 days.

Courtesy of the Martin Luther King Memorial Library (#8235)

"Stenographers! Washington Needs You!" by Roy Hull Still, ca. 1918. Women workers moved into federal employment in large numbers at the end of the 19th century. But during the First World War, many thousands more came to Washington to assist with the war effort often, working as stenographers, typists, or file clerks.

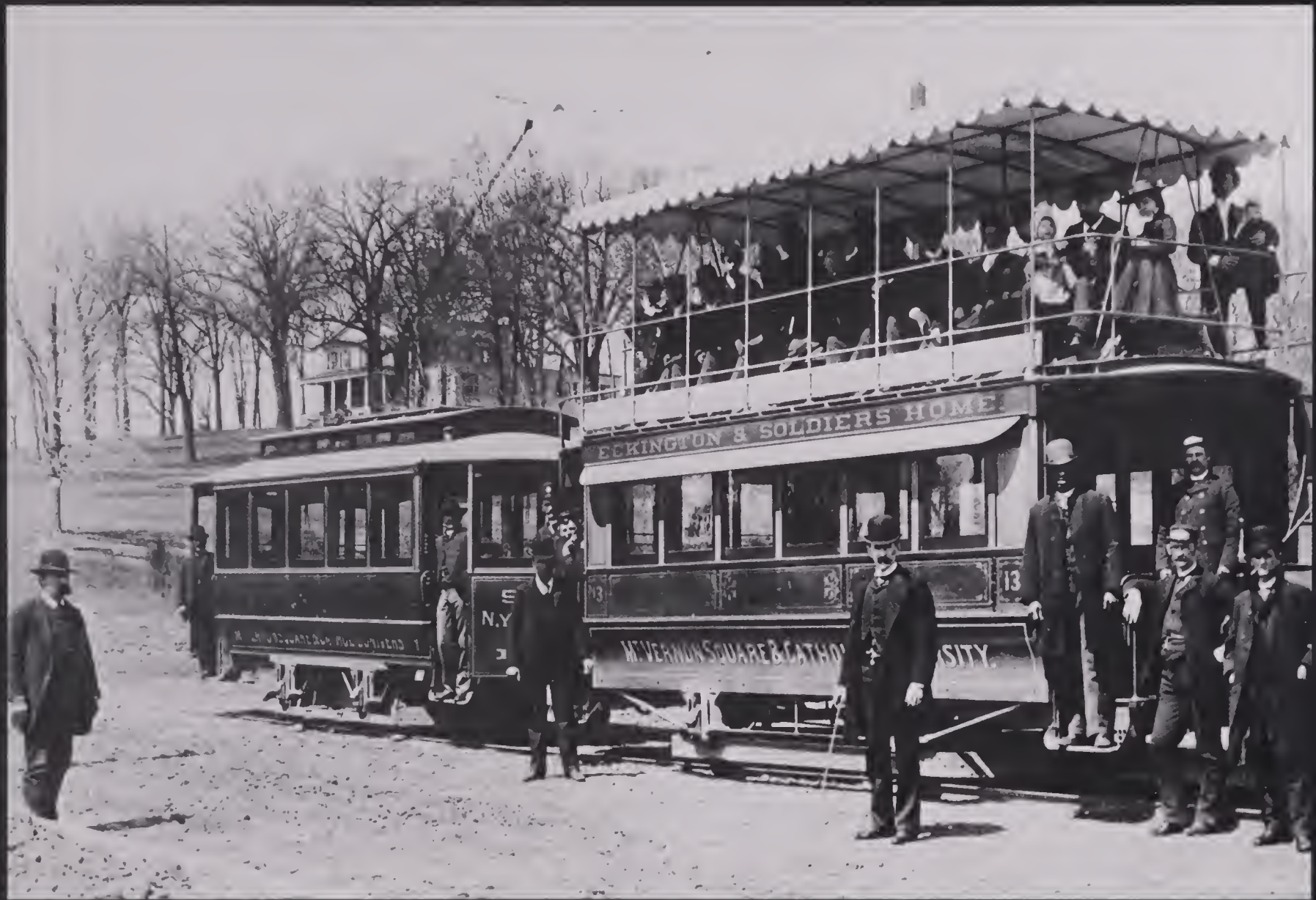
**RG 45, Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library (45-WP.345)*





"Treasury Department workers trimming and boxing currency, ca. 1907" For black as well as white workers, government employment held out the promise of stable, long-term employment at relatively high wages. But black government workers found themselves subject to the ebb and flow of discriminatory employment practices. In 1891, 1 out of 10 of Washington workers were black, but during next two decades this percentage fell as hostility toward black workers rose.

RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (121-BA-552HH)



Employees of the Eckington and Soldiers' Home Railroad with double-deck car, 1899. As the city grew at the end of the 19th century, new developments in transportation such as the growth of street railway lines provided blue collar employment for Washingtonians as trainmen, conductors, and mechanics.

Courtesy of the Martin Luther King Memorial Library (#6893)



Treasury Department Workers, 1910. The early 20th century saw an explosion in clerical and professional employment in Washington. The presence of federal employment was a stabilizing factor in the District's economy and tended to insulate Washingtonians from the effects of downturns in the economic cycle.

**RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (121-BA-552-QQ)*

Baggage porter operating an electric baggage cart at Union Station, ca. 1905. Jobs in the service sector such as porters, waiters, and domestics provided employment for many black Washingtonians in the early 20th century.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USZ62-91729)



Whole Elevation 856 above summit level
and 7754 above tide

MAP
OF THE COUNTRY BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND PITTSBURGH
REFERRING TO THE CONTEMPLATED
CHESAPEAKE
AND
OHIO CANAL
AND ITS
GENERAL ROUTE AND PROFILE
OCTOBER
1826

"Map of the Country between Washington and Pittsburgh Referring to the Contemplated Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the General Route and Profile," October 1826. Several attempts were made to build a canal between Washington and the west. The Chesapeake and Ohio canal was the most ambitious of these. Begun in 1828, it eventually ran to Cumberland, Maryland, but was never a commercial success.

RG 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers (Canals 71-2)



■ **Transportation.** As Washington grew, moving around and in and out of the city became a major concern. Early city promoters believed that the construction of a canal near the city would forge a commercial link with western markets. The biggest of these canal-building projects was the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, begun in 1828. Unfortunately, by the time the route between Georgetown and Cumberland, Maryland, was completed in 1850, the bulk of the trade with the west had already been captured by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

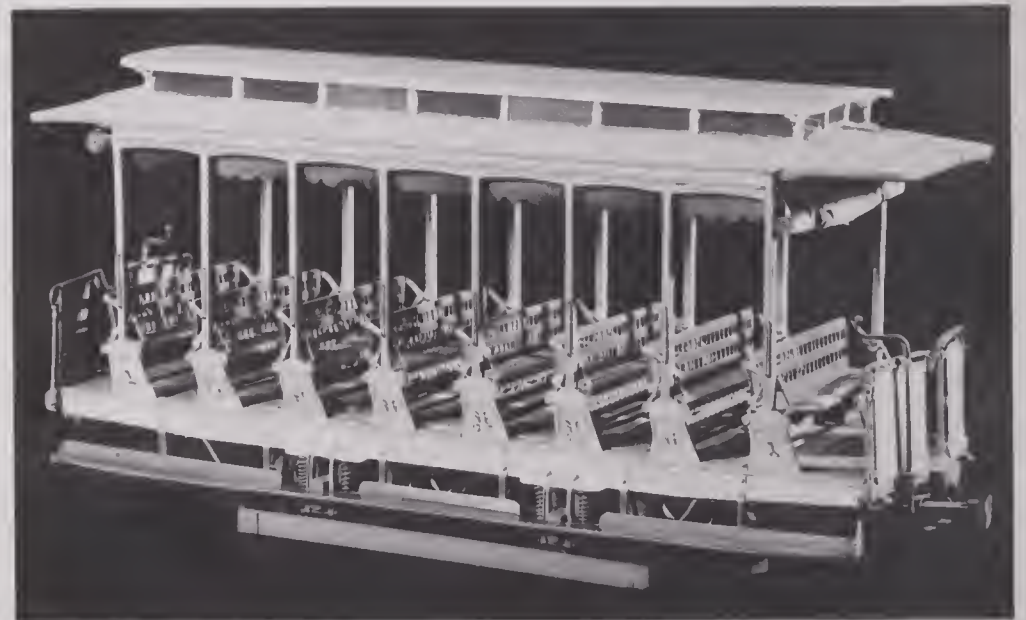
Other methods of transportation made more lasting changes. Railroads came late to Washington because the city had counted on canals to bring prosperity, but several stations in the city, especially the beautiful Union Station, designed by Daniel Burnham, linked the District with other cities and markets. Improvements in intracity transportation allowed residents to live away from the central city. Especially important were the introduction of the electric street railways in the 1880s, and later, the coming of the automobile. Since World War II, additional commuters have severely tested the District's road system, and this congestion prompted measures such as car pooling and a return to mass transit.

Model of a Capital Traction Company Streetcar, ca. 1900.

The Capital Traction Company existed from 1899 until 1902, when it consolidated with several other street railroad companies.

Photograph by Joel Breger

Model courtesy of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution





“View of line-up of automobiles at a stop sign on Maine Ave. during late afternoon rush hour,” ca. 1950. After World War II, moving in and out of the city became an increasingly difficult task. An increase in commuter traffic from the Maryland and Virginia suburbs was largely responsible for this congestion.

RG 306, Records of the United States Information Agency (306-PS-49-12634)



“‘Walk,’ ‘Don’t Walk,’ ‘No Right turn’ ‘thru only.’ A complicated traffic signal to un-complicate Washington, DC traffic,” 1949. As urban life became increasingly complex after World War II, so did Washington, DC’s traffic patterns.

RG 306, Records of the United States Information Agency (306-PS-49-2682)



Dupont Circle Metrorail Station, June 22, 1977. In 1962 Washington-area governments adopted a plan to construct a regional mass-transit rail system that would link Washington and its Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Begun in 1969, the Metrorail system is to be completed in the 1990s and will contain 87 stations and 103 miles of track. The system's first segment was finished in 1976.

Photograph by Phil Portlock

Courtesy of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



Aerial photograph of Union Station, 1940. The convergence of railroad tracks north of the Capitol identifies Union Station in this aerial photograph. The station was the transportation hub of the city from 1907 until the end of World War II.

RG 373, Records of the Defense Intelligence Agency (Can 1A-488 exposure 1103)



Interior of Union Station, 1988. Originally designed by architect Daniel Burnham in the early 20th century, Union Station fell into disrepair during the 1960s and 1970s. The station, including its magnificent vaulted interior, was restored and reopened in 1988. It once again serves Washington, DC, as a railway terminal but now also houses a variety of shops, restaurants, and movie theaters.

Photograph by Nina Tisara

To the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States in Congress assembled.

The prayer of your memorialists respectfully
represents, that many persons from various parts
of the Union, whose minds are more or less erratic,
find their way to the metropolis of the country
in pursuit of unattainable objects, the fancies
of their disordered intellects, and being generally
unprotected and without means they ramble
about the city; frequently but poorly clad and
suffering for want of food and shelter, the
light of reason too dim to enable them to
perceive and make their necessities known.
Their helpless and unprotected condition
painfully affects the humane and philanthro-
-ropic. Private charity is unavailing in such cases,
as they require constant vigilance, regular and
systematic medical treatment, and a suitable
building for their residence.

**Petition from the citizens of the District of Columbia regarding
the insane, 1851.** In 1851 District residents petitioned Congress for help
in caring for individuals "who ramble about the city, frequently but
poorly clad and suffering from want of food and shelter."

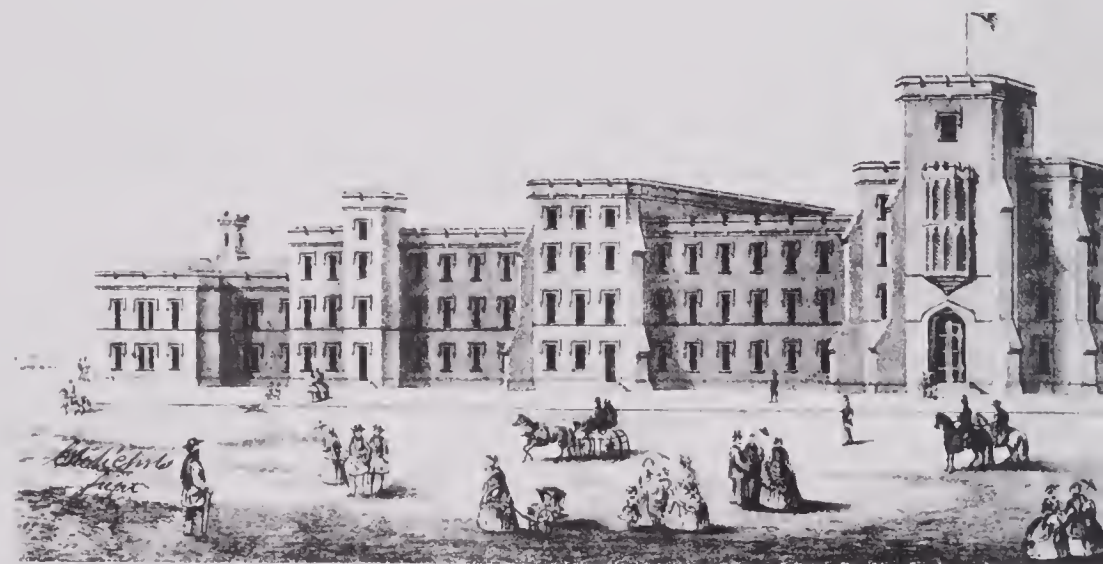
RG 46, Records of the United States Senate (32A-H5)

Reproduced with the permission of the Senate

Charity, Education, and Order. Institutions promoting charity, education, and public safety have also changed over the District's history. Efforts to help those in need began soon after the city's founding. One early private effort, the Washington Female Orphan Asylum, was organized by Dolley Madison. Such private charities expanded throughout the 19th century. They included a society for the relief of the "penniless and forlorn emigrant," a medical society for the poor, and benevolent associations sponsored by members of fraternal, workingmen's, or religious organizations.

**Engraving of the Government Hospital for the insane of the
Army, Navy, and the District of Columbia, ca. 1855.** Responding
to the urgings of mental health reformer Dorothea Dix and others, Con-
gress established an asylum east of the Anacostia River. St. Elizabeths
Hospital, as it has come to be known, has served the District
continuously since 1855.

RG 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers (Cons 102 #2)



These private networks, along with the city's poor fund, provided the bulk of welfare services in 19th-century Washington. However, the federal government occasionally played an important role. Congress funded major projects such as Saint Elizabeths Hospital for the mentally ill, and after the Civil War it sponsored relief to newly freed destitute slaves through the Freedmen's Bureau. In the 20th century, work relief helped Washingtonians survive the Great Depression. Local authorities ran a woodpile where one could split wood for fuel and also be paid to deliver it to other needy individuals. The Work Projects Administration (WPA) provided additional employment by sponsoring projects such as the cleaning and repair of the Washington Monument, constructing playgrounds, writing guidebooks, and operating day nurseries.

In addition to caring about the less fortunate in their midst, Washingtonians have cared as well about educating their young.



Public education in the District of Columbia dates from 1806 when two schools were founded. Unfortunately, lack of funding forced trustees to charge for all but the poorest of students; those who could afford to pay quickly became unwilling to send their children to what became known as “pauper schools.” In the 1840s the city council, under the leadership of Mayor William Seaton, created a truly tax-supported public educational system for white boys and girls.

Education for black children developed more slowly. Before the Civil War, free black children were forbidden to attend public schools even when their parents paid taxes. In 1862 Congress created a Board of Trustees for Colored Schools in the District of Columbia. After emancipation, schools sponsored by the Freedmen's Bureau appeared throughout the city. The District's schools remained segregated until September 1954, when, like many other school systems, it was integrated under a decision issued with the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling.

Many colleges and universities have also called Washington home. George Washington dreamed that the nation's capital would become a center for learning and the arts and home to a national university. Although plans for a national university never came to pass, the city did attract a number of institutions of higher education. Georgetown, George Washington, American, Howard, Gallaudet, and Catholic Universities are some of the schools that have made Washington a major center for research and teaching.

Several of these schools are especially noteworthy. George-



Work Projects Administration worker receiving paycheck, January 1939. During the Great Depression, many Washingtonians looked to WPA-sponsored construction projects for employment.

RG 69, Records of the Work Projects Administration (69-N-19626)

town, the city's first college, was established in 1815 as a Catholic seminary. It is the oldest Catholic university in the United States. Gallaudet University, established in 1857 as the Columbia Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, was the world's first college for the deaf. In 1867 Congress chartered Howard University as one means to educate black people after emancipation. It was the first biracial college south of the Mason-Dixon line and has become one of the nation's premier traditionally black universities.

Like any city, Washington, DC, has needed to be concerned about maintaining order so its residents can live and work together in safety. When the city was first settled, few worried about crime. The local jail was used mainly for debtors and runaway slaves. Even by 1840, Washington City provided only a few "ward constables," who rarely worked at night, to police the city.

Both Congress and local authorities have sought to respond to citizen calls for increased protection and safety. In the 1820s a movement aimed at humanizing criminal punishment swept the United States. One result of the movement in Washington was the construction of a penitentiary that would house large numbers of convicted criminals in isolation. The penitentiary was located at Greenleaf Point on the site of what is now Fort Leslie McNair and served the District from 1831 until 1862.

Another example of governmental action was Congress's creation of Washington's first nighttime police force. In the 1840s gangs of young toughs took control of many of Washington, DC's volunteer fire companies and began setting fires around the city so they could experience the thrill of extinguishing the blazes. In 1842 the threat to property became so large that Congress created an Auxiliary Guard to protect federal buildings at night. In the 1850s Congress, once again concerned about a crime wave, considered enlarging the city's police force and placing it under federal control. A bill to that effect was debated in the House and the Senate but failed to become law because the two houses could not agree on who would appoint or pay for the proposed force.



Peabody Nursery School, April 13, 1938. WPA-sponsored nursery and day schools provided employment for teachers and care for the children of parents who worked outside the home.

RG 69, Records of the Work Projects Administration (69-N-13938)

Petition to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives calling for a "uniform and impartial system of public schools," 1869. In 1862 Congress created a Board of Trustees for Colored Schools to oversee the education of black children in the city. However, public education for blacks suffered from discrimination and unequal funding. In spite of these handicaps, opportunities for education were enthusiastically embraced by Washington's black citizens. In 1864 the chairman of the Board of Trustees wrote that the "hungry hands of the learners, old and young, grasp eagerly at all the instruction offered."

RG 46, Records of the U.S. Senate (41A-H5.2)

Reproduced with the permission of the Senate

PETITION.

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives
in Congress assembled.*

The undersigned, colored citizens of Washington and Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, respectfully represent to your honorable body that further legislation in behalf of the education of our children in this District is urgently needed and we therefore humbly but earnestly pray you to speedily take such action as shall provide a uniform and impartial system of Public Schools for the entire District of Columbia, under one Board of Management; or should it be impracticable to elaborate a measure so comprehensive during the present brief session, to at once so amend the present laws relating to colored schools in these cities as to provide for the appointment of a Board of nine Trustees, (instead of three, as at present,) to wit, seven from Washington (one from each ward) and two from Georgetown; and to give these Trustees authority to establish schools of a higher grade than primary, and to employ a Superintendent of Schools.

And as in duty bound will ever pray.

William B. Powell

C. C. Kinsol

Geo. Shanklin

Sam Parker

John Parker

Jon. Fisher

Wm. Smith

Wm. Wilson

Henry Butler

John. J. Sims

John H. Sims

Kelana Wilson

Chas. H. Wood

Stephen Woodyard

W. Mallon

Robert Morris

Charles M. Smith

Ellery Jones

Bainy Briggs

Ed. Steward

John Miller

Samuel Reller

John. J. Sims

A. R. Whittier

Jon. Malin

Richard Blackburn

John. J. Sims

John. J. Sims

Thomas King

John. J. Sims

Jack Johnson

Daniel. Keys

John. J. Sims

Frank Hankins

Geo. Shorter

Wm. Scott

Ludwell Gammell

Samuel Harris

Horace Johnson



Engraving of the Sumner School, 1873. Named for the abolitionist senator from Massachusetts, the Charles Sumner School was completed in 1872 on land given to the Board of Trustees for Colored Schools by the Freedmen's Bureau. Designed by the noted architect Adolf Cluss, the school held both elementary and secondary schools. In 1877 it graduated Washington, DC's first black high school class.

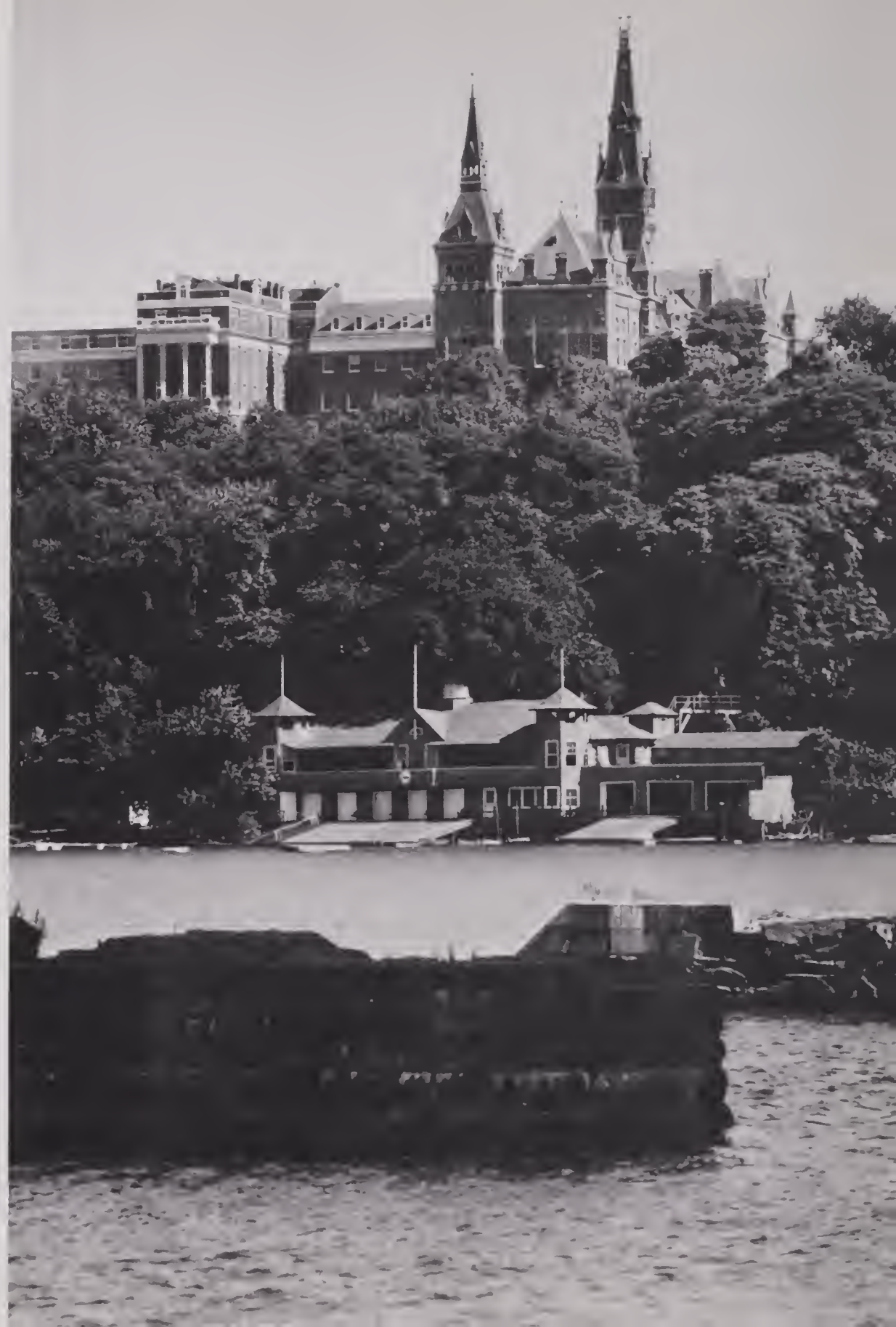
Photograph courtesy of the District of Columbia Public Schools

"Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, later Gallaudet University," November 1, 1878. The Columbia Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind was founded in 1857. It soon became the world's leading educational institution for the deaf. It is now called Gallaudet University after pioneer educator of the deaf Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet.

RG 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior (48-RSD-1-4)



Georgetown University from the Potomac River, ca. 1950.
Chartered in 1815, Georgetown University is the city's oldest university
and the oldest Catholic university in the nation.
RG 306, Records of the United States Information Agency (306-PS-50-10189)





Architectural drawing of the District of Columbia Penitentiary, 1826. This drawing, "showing the arrangement of the cells," was drawn by the penitentiary's architect, Charles Bullfinch. The District's federal penitentiary operated between 1831 and 1862.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Parks of the Nation's Capital, D.C. Penitentiary, Series 4, #9

Opposite: Pages from the "punishment book" for the District of Columbia penitentiary, 1831–47. When inmates violated prison rules, they were punished, usually by solitary confinement. This sort of punishment was considered a humane alternative to more traditional corporal punishments such as whipping or branding.

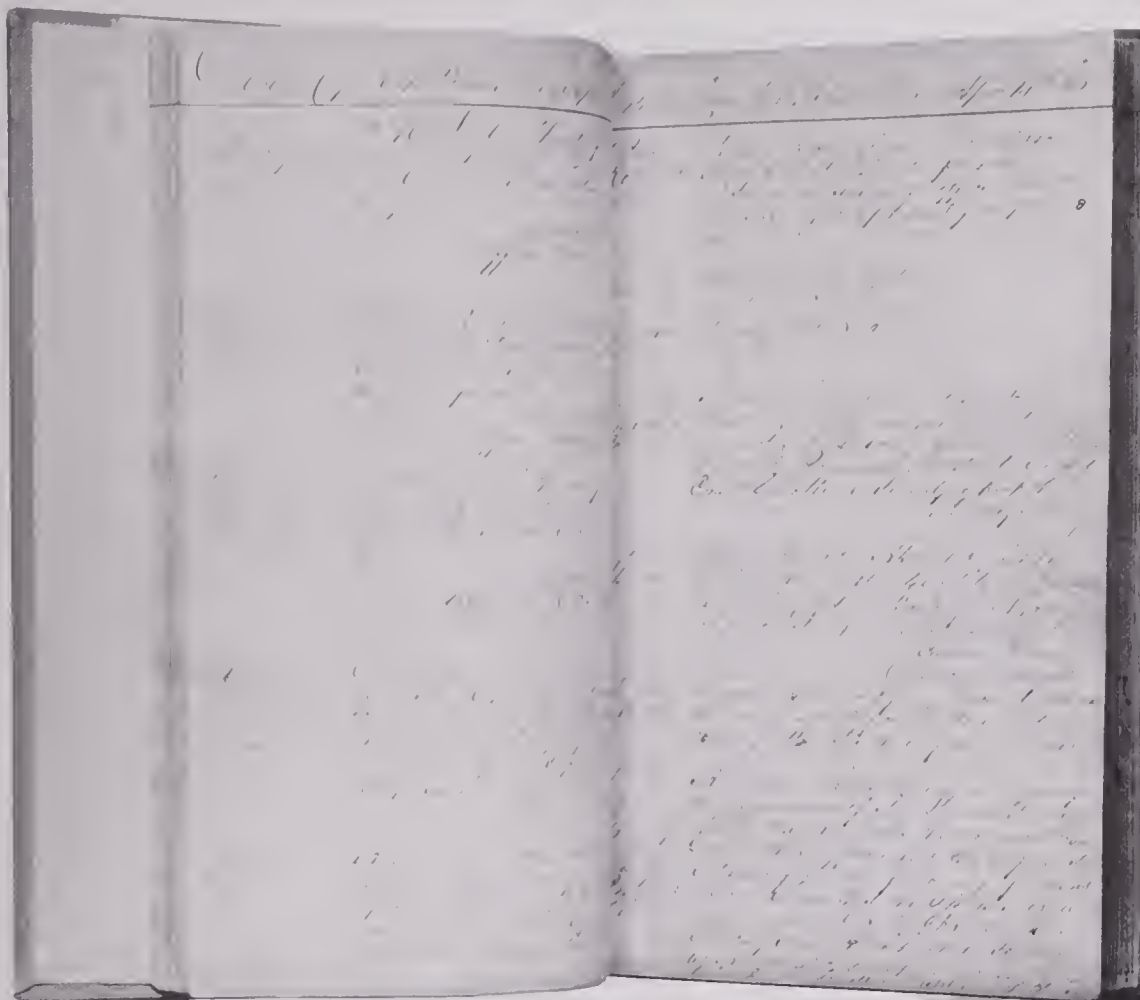
RG 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior

Penitentiary offences

Names	No of Times	offences
John Wesley Hobbs	1	Threatening to stab Sam Young (a convict)
Nashua Young	1	Quarrelling with J. W. Hobbs (a convict)
Nancy Ashton	1	Bad talking in cell.
Ed Nelson Sims	1	molesting other convicts and waiting
J. W. Hobbs	2	Fighting in the a convicts)
John Smith	1	Beating Hobbs
Ed Nelson	3	insolence, dissatisfaction at his
Nancy Ashton	3	being swearing and insolence
Ed Nelson Sims	3	Threatening to fight Young (a convict)
Ed Nelson Sims	1	Threatening to fight Sims
David Hitchcock	1	Quarrelling with Hunter
Kelly Gill	1	Conversation with Brooks & going to
Kelly Gill	3	Lying and indecent language
Ed Nelson Sims	3	Swearing and laziness
Sam Peoples	1	Swearing & laziness
Sam Byers	1	Swearing improperly and neglecting
Harriet Smith	1	Swearing improperly and neglecting
Sam Byers	3	Swearing and other conduct
Henry Cartwright	1	addressing improper language to one
Willam Van Buren	1	attempting to escape
Sam Byers	3	Quarrelling & fighting
Kelly Gill	3	Quarrelling & fighting
Sam Byers	4	going in the Privy, where she knew
Nancy Ashton	4	Abusing one of the Guards
Nancy Ashton	5	Quarrelling & fighting
Kelly Gill	4	Quarrelling & fighting
Samuel Peoples	2	Pick-pocket to get an
John Kelly	1	Whistling, & mimicking a cat
John Smith	2	Fighting Young
Nancy Ashton	6	giving a Guard some
Alfred Rowns	3	insolence to keeper
Ben Bell	1	Quarrelling & fighting
John Ryder	1	do do

Punishments

	When Confined	When Released
convicts)	Nov 21 st 1831.	Nov 22 nd 1831
	" 21 - "	" 22 - "
	" 21 - "	" 22 - "
his bed	Dec 3 - "	Dec 5 - "
	" 15 - "	" 19 - "
	" 15 - "	" 19 - "
ration & abusing keeper	" 15 - "	" 17 - "
	" 22 - "	" 26 - "
	Jan 4 - 1832	Jan 6 - 1832
	" 4 - "	" 6 - "
	" 13 - "	" 14 - "
his cell	" 29 "	" 31 "
	Feb - 1 - "	Feb - 2 - "
	" - 4 - "	" - 6 - "
	" - 4 - "	" - 6 - "
work	Feb 9 "	" 10 - "
work	" - 9 - "	" - 10 - "
language	" - 15 - "	" - 18 - "
of the keepers	" - 16 - "	" - 19 - "
	March 1 - "	
	" - 2 - "	
	" - 2 - "	
Isaac Brogan was	May 4 - 1832	May 9 th 1832
	" 7 - "	May 8 th 1832
disobeying the Warden	" 17 th "	" 20 th 1832
	" 17 th "	" 19 th 1832
the women	" 23 rd "	
	" 28 th "	
	June 13 th "	June 14 th "
	July 9 th "	July 12 th 1832
	" 23 rd "	" 25 th "
	Octo 16 "	Octo 21 st "
	Octo 16 "	Octo 23 rd "



Metropolitan Police Department "blotter," April 14, 1865. The District's most infamous crime, the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, shook the nation and plunged it into mourning. On the pages from the Metropolitan Police "blotters" for April 14, 1865, the police noted the date of the crime, the names of witnesses, and the evidence recovered at the scene.

RG 351, Records of the Government of the District of Columbia



"The Assassination of President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre on the Night of April 14, 1865."

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USZ62-33804)

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED

NEWSPAPER

No. 171—VOL. VII.]

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1859.

[Pages 6 Cent]

NEW TALE!

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the new and deeply interesting tale commenced in our last number, which will be continued from week to week until concluded. The name of the author from whose pen it emanates—FREDERICK ZESS, Esq., author of "The Flower of the Fleck," "The Snake in the Grass," &c., is of itself a guarantee, that

ADA LEIGH; OR, THE LOVE TEST,

will be found a tale of absorbing interest, and our readers will soon discover for themselves that in accurate delineation of human character, the portrayal of sentiment and the development of a finely constructed plot, ADA LEIGH is a tale that has seldom been surpassed in interest. Let everybody read it. A synopsis of the chapters published in our last is given in this number.

THE WASHINGTON TRAGEDY

Crime and Bloodshed to the Future!
SHOOTING OF PHILIP BARTON KEY,
DANIEL E. SICKLES, OF NEW Y.

(With the only correct illustrations published, made by our Special Artist.)

On the afternoon of Sunday, February 27th, the city of Washington was suddenly thrown into a state of intense excitement as news



MR. DANIEL E. SICKLES SHOOTING PHILIP BARTON KEY IN LAFAYETTE PARK.

WASHINGTON. MARCH 12. THE MURDER OF PHILIP BARTON KEY BY DANIEL E. SICKLES.



U.S. Park Policeman near the State, War, and Navy Building, ca. 1904. Washington, DC, is a city with many different police forces. Historically, differing jurisdictions, lack of personnel, and the city's unique place as the nation's capital have led to divided responsibility among forces such as the Metropolitan Police, the Capitol Police, the Auxiliary Guard, and the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital (42-SPB-96)

The Murder of Philip Barton Key, February 27, 1859.

Congressman Daniel E. Sickles of New York shot Philip Barton Key in Lafayette Park when he discovered Key was having an affair with Mrs. Sickles. The resulting trial caused considerable scandal in Washington, but it also set legal precedent because it marked the first successful use of a temporary insanity defense in a U.S. murder trial.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

■ ***A City of Neighborhoods.*** Washington, DC, boasts at least 70 distinctively identifiable neighborhoods. Each has its own history; each reflects the city's economic, social, and racial makeup. Some, for example, have been home to Washington's ethnic communities. Washington's small Chinatown neighborhood has had two locations. The first was located near 4th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. During the 1930s construction of the Federal Triangle forced its relocation to near 7th and H Streets, NW. While many of its residents have moved away from the city, it is still a center for Chinese business and community life. During the 19th century a Jewish immigrant community from Germany and Russia lived in Southwest Washington, where they built several family-owned businesses including tailor shops, clothing stores, and a millinery business. More recently, the Adams-Morgan neighborhood south of Rock Creek Park in Northwest has become home for emigrants from Central America.

Other neighborhoods owed their development to improvements in transportation, ties to local institutions, or social and economic change. In the early 19th century, residential areas grew up near government buildings or near other places of work, such as the Navy Yard. By the 1880s these traditional "walking city" neighborhoods were being replaced by the growth of "streetcar suburbs," such as Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, and Eckington, which grew up along the rail lines and allowed residents to live in one part of the city and work in another.





Opposite: ***"Small boy by alley housing in Southwest,"*** by **Gordon Parks, 1942.** Washington, DC, is one of only a few American cities where residences sprang up in alleys. Though alley dwellings were substandard, alley life made for close-knit communities and provided homes to hundreds of poor families.

**Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USW3-11061-C)*

"Schott's Alley," ca. 1940. Located near the Capitol, Schott's Alley was often photographed because the grand government buildings in the background provided a striking contrast to the poverty found in the alleys. In the background of this photograph is the Russell Senate Office Building.

RG 328, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission (328-M-2)

Washington, DC, is also one of only a few American cities where neighborhoods sprang up in alleys. Beginning around the Civil War, people began to occupy Washington's large city blocks, often living in former carriage houses or slave quarters. By the end of the 19th century, formal residences had been built and rented to poor, often black, Washingtonians. These alley dwellings were usually poorly constructed, overcrowded, and badly maintained by their landlords, yet they also provided their residents with a strong, close-knit community. Today, most of the poor have been moved out of alleys, and while it is difficult to dispute that alley life was difficult, whether it was harder than living in one of today's massive and anonymous public housing projects is debatable.

Two neighborhoods, Thomas Circle and Anacostia, are examples of economic and social differences in the city. The Thomas Circle area developed at the end of the 19th century as a place where the well-to-do could live in comfort and style. Around the circle were built large homes and apartment houses. One landmark, the Portland Flats, was the District's first luxury apartment house and featured high ceilings, two fireplaces in each apartment, steam heat, skylights, elevators, and a restaurant.

Anacostia, then called Uniontown, began as a working-class suburb within walking distance of the Navy Yard. A real estate partnership called the Union Land Company purchased 100 acres of land, subdivided it into 15 square blocks, and sold them at prices the working class could afford. An exclusively white neighborhood, all houses sold in Uniontown contained restrictive covenants in their

IT'S HERE

Low rent housing
LOW-RENT HOUSING

for
white families
WHITE FAMILIES
of low income
OF LOW INCOME

The
ALLEY DWELLING AUTHORITY

1940

Alley Dwelling Auth.

deeds of sale that forbade sale to nonwhites. This covenant was formally broken when, in 1877, civil rights advocate and author Frederick Douglass moved to Uniontown.

After the Civil War, a new community for blacks, Barry's Farm, was founded just south of Uniontown. In the spring of 1867, freedmen were hired at \$1.25 a day to fell trees, clear brush, and cut roads. When the land was prepared, 1-acre tracts were sold for \$125 to \$300. Many farm workers put aside 50 cents from each day's earnings toward a purchase of a home, and Barry's Farm quickly became a complete community; residents built not only homes but churches, stores, and schools.

As its name implies, American University Park's origins were closely linked to the development of American University. Shortly after the school's founding in 1890, two real estate developers purchased 170 acres on the Maryland border near the site of an old Civil War fort in upper Northwest Washington. They began selling lots in 1897, hoping to create a real estate boom linked to the university's growth. Growth did not take place until the 1920s, and it was only then that American University Park began to emerge as the residential community it is today.

Opposite: "It's Here Low-Rent Housing for White Families of Low Income," 1940. In theory, alley residents were to be relocated to new "model" communities. Because of discriminatory practices, however, new housing was often not available to the mostly black former alley dwellers.

RG 302, Records of the National Capital Housing Authority (302-DC2-55A)



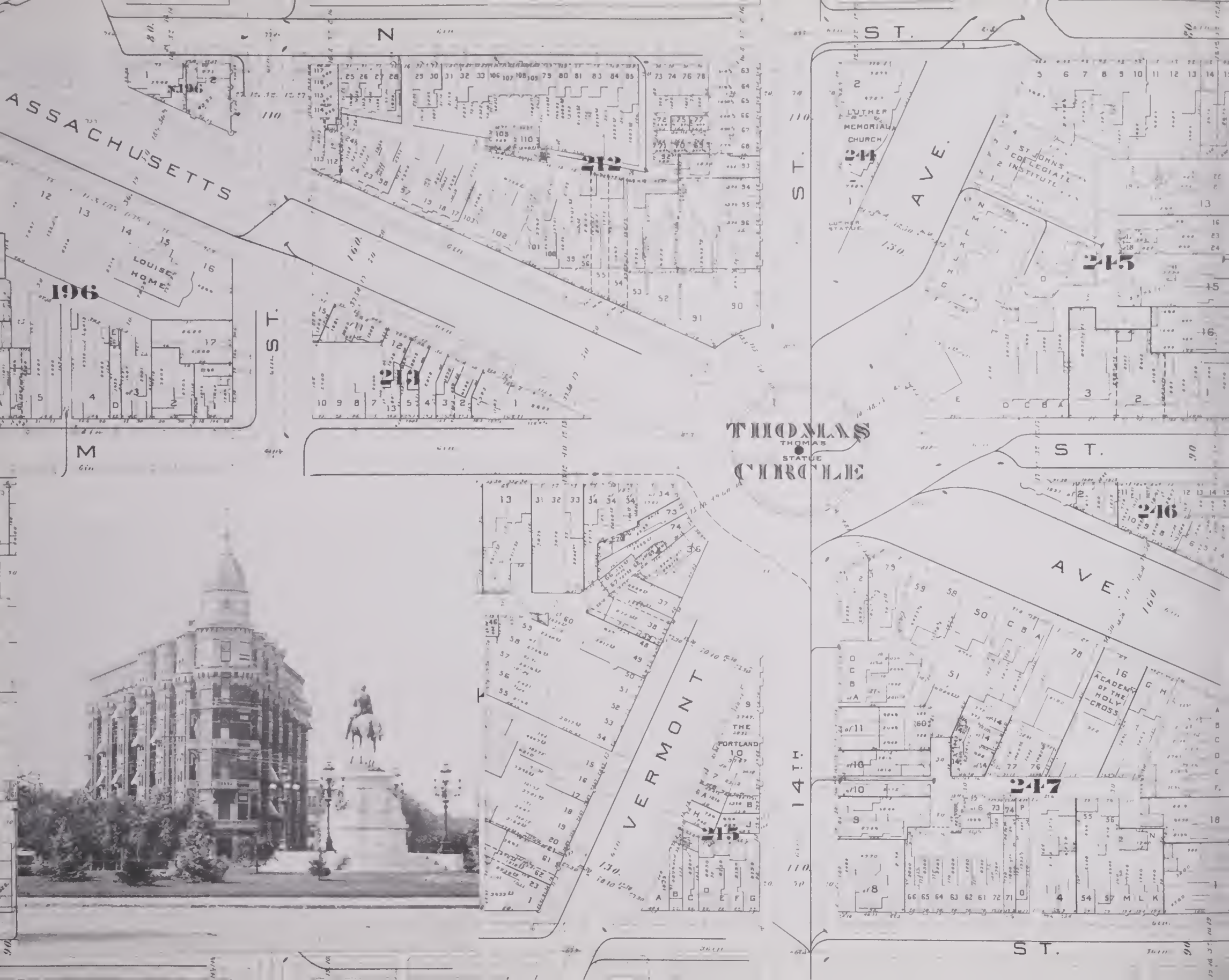
"St. Mary's Court, Square 42, Alley houses looking south," November 8, 1935.

**RG 302, Records of the National Capital Housing Authority (302-DC-4-8-D)*



"London Court, Square 1023, 12th, 13th, L and M Streets SE, April 1936." The courtyard was the focus of community life in an alley. It was a place to meet, watch children, and exchange news.

RG 302, Records of the National Capital Housing Authority (302-DC-2-21-E)



MASSACHUSETTS

N

ST.

196

LOUISE HOMER

ST.

THOMAS
THOMAS
STATUE
CHURCH

ST.

AVE.

VERMONT

14TH

247

ST.



Opposite: Map of Thomas Circle area, 1893.

RG 351, Records of the Government of the District of Columbia, Hopkins Atlas

Opposite, inset: The Portland Flats, 1891. Washington, DC's first luxury apartment, the Portland was constructed in the 1880s on the southern edge of Thomas Circle. Notable for its unique shape and ornamentation, the lavish building featured two fireplaces in each apartment, steam heat, skylights, two elevators, and a public restaurant. Washington lost this impressive piece of architectural history when the Portland was razed in 1962.

Courtesy of the Historical Society of Washington, DC (#3317)

Above: Thomas Circle, ca. 1890. Thomas Circle is named for Civil War General George Thomas. In the late 19th century the circle developed into a neighborhood for wealthy professionals and government officials. Today most of their elegant residences are gone, razed to make way for hotels and office buildings.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USZ62-33240)



“Garfield Park Wading pool, ca. 1914.” Many of Washington’s neighborhoods have parks that serve as recreation centers for their residents. Garfield Park is located in the city’s Southeast between the Navy Yard and Capitol Hill. In 1914, when this photo was taken, the neighborhood was predominantly working class.

**RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital (42-SPB-5)*



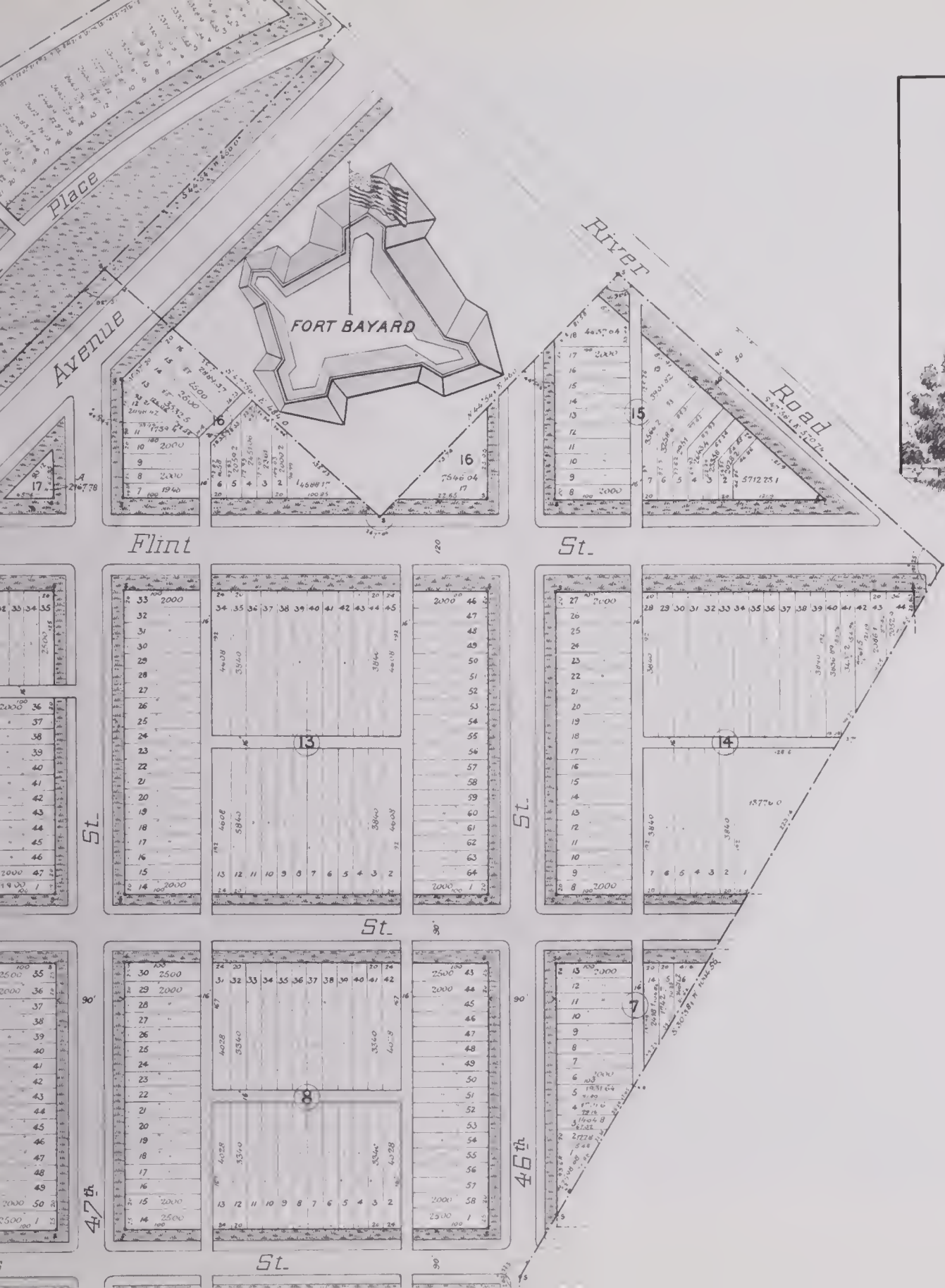
“Between 13th and 14th Street, NW, near the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and M Street,” ca. 1900. In 1900 these fashionable townhomes near Thomas Circle were the residences of wealthy Washingtonians.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks (42-SPB-77)

“Row houses near McKinley High School,” ca. 1950. The row house is typical of many Washington, DC, neighborhoods. These homes were in Eckington. In 1950 Eckington was a racially mixed middle-class neighborhood located in Northeast Washington.

**RG 306, Records of the United States Information Agency (306-PS-54-16139)*





Map of American University Park, 1897 (detail). American University Park is located near the Maryland border near the site of an old Civil War fort in upper Northwest Washington. For the first three decades of its existence it was isolated from the rest of the city because of a lack of transportation and because nearby American University failed to grow as expected and bring residents to this corner of the District. The house above was drawn on the original map to show prospective customers a model of an American University Park dwelling.

RG 351, Records of the Government of the District of Columbia, Building Permit #812, February 3, 1883



American University Park, 1990. No longer isolated, American University Park has developed into an almost exclusively residential neighborhood. This overwhelmingly residential flavor has spared AU Park from the development battles many other neighborhoods in Northwest have fought in recent years.

Photograph by Bruce I. Bustard



Bridge across the Eastern Branch, ca. 1865. Founded as Uniontown in 1854, Anacostia is Washington, DC's oldest "suburb." During the 19th century many residents crossed the Anacostia Bridge to their jobs at the Navy Yard.

RG 111, Records of the Chief Signal Officer (111-B-343)



"Scene in Marsh on Anacostia River, Washington, Capitol in distance," ca. 1882 by John K. Hillers. By the 1880s large sections of Washington, DC, were urban, but much of the city, such as these marshes in Anacostia, remained rural into the mid-20th century.

RG 57, Records of the Geological Survey (57-PS-233)



Improvements to Logan Park, Anacostia, ca. 1913. One prominent feature in Anacostia was this tree-lined esplanade that soon became a center for community life. In 1886 Congress changed the name of Uniontown to Anacostia to avoid confusion with the many other towns named Uniontown after the Civil War.

RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital (42-SPB-10)

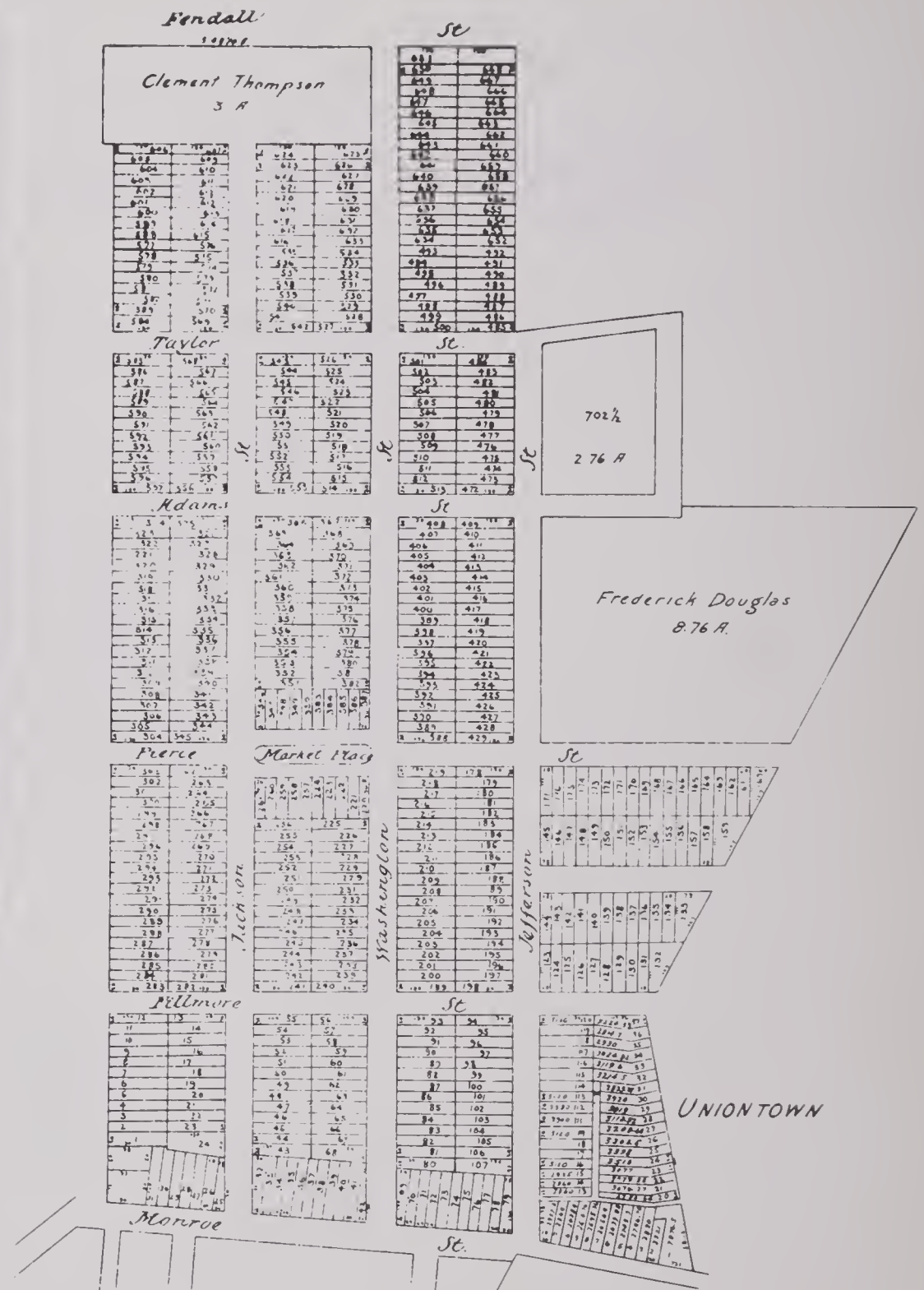


Above: **Frederick Douglass, ca. 1870–75.** Anacostia's most famous resident was Frederick Douglass, the 19th-century civil rights advocate, diplomat, and writer. A tireless public servant who was interested in local affairs as well as national issues, Douglass served on the Legislative Council of the District, as its Recorder of Deeds, as Marshall for the District, and as President of the Freedmen's Saving and Trust Company.

RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service (121-BA-74)

Right: **Plat of Uniontown, 1892.** When Douglass moved from Capitol Hill to Uniontown in 1877, he purchased this substantial tract of land and a home. When he did so, Douglass broke Uniontown's restrictive covenant, which forbade the sale of property to nonwhites.

RG 351, Records of the Government of the District of Columbia, Washington County Plats



Epilogue

Nation's Capital and *Hometown*



Domestic Artifacts from Barry's Farm, Anacostia. Barry's Farm was created as a community for blacks shortly after the Civil War. These artifacts (a chamber pot, a ginger beer bottle, a stone checker, pipe stems, and a toothbrush) were discovered during an archaeological excavation preceding construction of Metrorail's Green Line. They offer a glimpse of everyday life in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Photograph by Joel Breger

Artifacts courtesy of the District of Columbia Preservation Division



For most Americans, Washington, DC, is a special place. We come here not simply to visit monuments and museums but to protest and inaugurate; worship and agitate; mourn and celebrate. But there is also a Washington, DC, behind the monuments and the Mall. This is the city that is home to hundreds of thousands — a city of neighborhoods, families, schools, and workers.

The two cities seem distant from one another, yet in reality they are quite close. Both can be seen in the history of the city's celebrations and in the history of the ceremonies and demonstrations in the Federal City. The demonstrations, inaugurations, and marches Americans associate with the nation's capital have been part of everyday life for generations of Washingtonians. The millions of Americans who have visited the Federal City over the years have also had the opportunity to visit Washington the hometown — the Washington behind the monuments.

Crowds at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 28, 1963. Americans have traditionally gathered on the Mall or in Washington, DC's streets to make their grievances known to Congress, the President, and the rest of the nation. For Washingtonians, the sounds of protest are a part of daily life. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was the setting for Dr. Martin Luther King's stirring speech featuring the memorable phrase, "I have a dream!"

RG 306, Records of the United States Information Agency (306-SSM-4C-60-23)



***"National Civil Rights Convention," December 9, 1873.** During Reconstruction, these Civil Rights advocates came to Washington, DC, to lobby for the political and legal rights of black Americans.*

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USZ62-68959)



Suffragists' March to the Capitol, March 5, 1913.

Timed to coincide with the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson, the National American Woman Suffrage Association staged a march of 5,000 supporters of women's voting rights. The march turned into a near riot as opponents lined the parade route and shoved and hurled insults at the marchers. Eventually mounted cavalry were called in to restore order.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress (USZ62-10850)



Protest against lynching in Georgia, ca. 1945.

Between 1882 and 1968, 3,446 black people were lynched in the United States. Such outrages prompted this protest in front of the White House and calls for federal antilynching legislation.

**Courtesy of the Historical Society of Washington, DC (#27)*



Grand Review of the Armies of the United States at Washington, DC, May 23, 1865. At the end of the Civil War 200,000 soldiers paraded down Pennsylvania Avenue and in front of the President's reviewing stand. The nation's capital has been the site for numerous victory parades.

RG 64, Records of the National Archives and Records Administration (64-CC-6)



Bonus Marchers' encampment in Anacostia, July 28, 1932.

Called "Camp Marks" after a friendly District of Columbia police officer, this shantytown housed hundreds of World War I veterans who came to Washington to demand that Congress grant their veterans' bonuses early. Congress refused to pass the "Bonus Bill," and eventually the marchers were driven from Washington and their encampments destroyed.

RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer (111-SC:97518)



Marian Anderson singing at a free concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, April 7, 1939. When the Daughters of the American Revolution refused to rent Constitution Hall for a concert featuring black contralto Marian Anderson because of her race, angry protests followed. In response, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes authorized the use of the Lincoln Memorial for an integrated concert.

RG 306, Records of the United States Information Agency (306-NF965B-4)

Aerial photograph of Franklin Roosevelt's inauguration, March 1941. Every four years Washington hosts the nation's inaugural celebration. In 1941 Franklin Roosevelt's formal-swearing in was held on the east side of the Capitol Building. Since the 1981 inauguration of Ronald Reagan, the ceremonies are usually held on the west side of the building, overlooking the Mall.

RG 373, Records of the Defense Intelligence Agency (Can 1A-376)





The funeral procession of John Fitzgerald Kennedy leaves the White House grounds, November 25, 1963. The nation's capital is the traditional site for state funerals. The events surrounding national tragedies such as Lincoln's assassination, the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the Kennedy funeral have etched views like the above in the minds of millions of grieving Americans.

RG 79, Records of the National Park Service (79-AR-8255-2L)



Adams-Morgan Day Celebration, September 10, 1979. Ethnic festivals and street fairs offer a glimpse of the District's cultural diversity. The Adams-Morgan Festival provides visitors and Washingtonians alike with a chance to sample the food, dance, and dress of many different parts of the world.

**Copyright Washington Post; Reprinted by permission of the District of Columbia Public Library*

Opposite: Chinese New Year's Celebration, February 1, 1976. While millions of Americans know Washington, DC, as the site of public ceremonies and protests, fewer know the Washington that is the home for numerous ethnic festivals. One of these celebrates start of the Chinese Lunar New Year each February.

**Copyright Washington Post, Reprinted by permission of the District of Columbia Library*



For Further Reading

THE FEDERAL CITY

Bowling, Kenneth R. *Creating the Federal City, 1774–1800: Potomac Fever*. Washington, DC: American Institute of Architects Press, 1988.

Craig, Lois. *The Federal Presence, Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1979.

Gutheim, Frederick. *Worthy of a Nation, the History of Planning for the Nation's Capital*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1977.

National Archives Trust Fund Board. *Washington: The Design of the Federal City*. Washington, DC: National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1972; Acropolis Books, Ltd., 1986.

WASHINGTON AS HOME

Borchert, James. *Alley Life in Washington: Family, Community, Religion, and Folklife in the City, 1850–1970*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1980.

Green, Constance McLaughlin. *Washington, Village and Capital; Washington, Capital City*. 2 vols. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1962, 1963.


Humphrey, Robert L., and Mary Elizabeth Chambers. *Ancient Washington, American Indian Cultures of the Potomac Valley*. George Washington University Washington Studies, no. 6. Washington, DC: George Washington University, 1977.


Melder, Keith, ed. *City of Magnificent Intentions*. Washington, DC: The DC History Curriculum Project, Intac Inc., 1983.

Smith, Kathryn Schneider, ed. *Washington at Home, An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital*. Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988.

Young, James Sterling. *The Washington Community, 1800–1828*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1966.

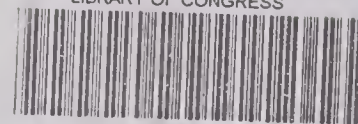
HECKMAN
BINDERY INC.



 MAY 90

N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA 46962

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 005 077 443 0